



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 12th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Uruguay, 2015**

Please submit the completed National Report in Microsoft Word format (.doc, 97-2003), as an electronic file (not a printed copy) and preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat (dufour@ramsar.org) by **1 September 2014**.

The structure of the COP12 National Report Format

The COP12 National Report Format (NRF) 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.

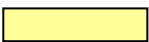
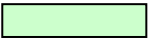
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

Section 3 provides the 66 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.

Section 4 is an optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that so wishes to provide additional information regarding any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

General guidance for completing and submitting the COP12 National Report Format

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS GUIDANCE SECTION BEFORE STARTING TO COMPLETE THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

1. All Sections of the COP12 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
2. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **1 September 2014**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP12.
3. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
4. Fields with a pale green background  are free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, as it helps us understand Parties' progress and activity more fully, to prepare the best possible global and regional implementation reports to COP.
5. The Format is created as a form in Microsoft Word. You are only able to submit replies and information in the yellow or green boxes, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the structure and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties.
6. To select a yellow or green field you wish to complete, 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.
7. To move down through the sequence of fields, you can also use the 'Tab' key on the computer keyboard.

8. For a 'free-text' field, you can type in whatever information you wish. Note that there is only limited facility within the Microsoft 'form' format to make editorial changes in the 'free-text' box once text has been entered. Therefore, if you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow 'free-text' box, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate document, make all the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the box.
9. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic entry of data into the Secretariat's database. For that reason, please **do not use double quote marks “ ”** in the 'free-text' fields. Please **only use single quote marks ‘ ’**. For the same reason, please **only use simple text in the 'free-text' fields: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
10. 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'. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
11. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarification, do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question. Please be as concise as possible (**maximum of 500 words** in each free-text box).
12. 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.
13. An NRF is not usually completed by one person alone: for many indicators it is best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP11 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided.
14. After each session, **remember to save the file** in Microsoft Word, .doc, 97-2003 format. A recommended filename structure is: COP12NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP12NRFSpain13July2014.doc
15. After the NRF has been completed, please **send it in this format to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, preferably by e-mail (dufour@ramsar.org).**
16. The completed NRF **must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP12 National Report.**
17. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

NATIONAL REPORT TO RAMSAR COP12

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Important note: the responses below will be considered by the Ramsar Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points, and will be used to update the information it holds. The Secretariat's current information about your focal points is available at www.ramsar.org/contacts_en.

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Administrative Authority: | THE COMMITTEE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN |
| Head of Administrative Authority - name and title: | Khairullo Ibodzoda, Director |
| Mailing address: | 5/1 Shamsi str., 734003, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan |
| Telephone/Fax: | +(992 37) 236-40-59, 236-13-53 |
| Email: | muhit@hifzitariat.tj |

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Name and title: | Khairullo Ibodzoda, Director |
| Mailing address: | 5/1 Shamsi str., 734003, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan |
| Telephone/Fax: | +(992 37) 236-40-59, 236-13-53 |
| Email: | muhit@hifzitariat.tj |

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

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Name and title: | Safarov Neymatullo, Head |
| Name of organisation: | National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center Republic of Tajikistan |
| Mailing address: | 47 Shevchenko str., 734025, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan |
| Telephone/Fax: | +992 6002546, 2212546 |
| Email: | NSafarov@biodiv.tajikiston.com |

DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Name and title: | Shermatov Khisravshokh, Chief specialist |
| Name of organisation: | National Center of biodiversity and biosafety |
| Mailing address: | 47 Shevchenko str., 734025, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan |
| Telephone/Fax: | +992 6002546, 2212546 |
| Email: | shermatov.khisrav@gmail.com |

DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Name and title: | |
| Name of organisation: | |
| Mailing address: | |
| Telephone/Fax: | |
| Email: | |

SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

REMINDER: Please do not use double quote marks “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP11 reporting):

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

- 1) Amendments and additions aimed at changing protection and management arrangements were introduced into the Law on Specially Protected Natural Areas of the Republic of Tajikistan of 2011;
- 2) Tajik National Park, including its wetlands, was included in the list of UNESCO natural heritage;
- 3) Rehabilitation of riparian ecosystems and expansion of the Tigrovaya Balka Reserve;
- 4) Regional cooperation with Afghanistan in the basins of Pyandj and Amu-Darya rivers;
- 5) Enhancing cooperation with international institutions at national, regional and global levels regarding management and development plans.

B. What have been the five greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

- 1) Reorganization of government institutions and delegation of authorities;
- 2) Degradation of wetlands due to changes in agricultural activities;
- 3) Limitation and lack of financial resources needed to ensure inventorying of flora and fauna of wetlands on a temporary basis.
- 4)
- 5)

C. What are the five priorities for future implementation of the Convention?

- 1) Inventory of wetlands in the country, including natural and artificial wetlands;
- 2) Inventory of fauna and flora of wetlands, clarification of existing boundaries of wetlands and definition of new ones;
- 3) Monitoring of flora and fauna of wetlands on a temporary basis;
- 4) Preparation of management plans for Ramsar sites;
- 5) Strategies and policies for conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in the face of climate change.

D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

A Financial assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat for the implementation of the Convention

E. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)? (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to develop)

Recommendations and supports from GEF, WB, UNEP, NABU.

F. 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?

The above relationship in the implementation of other multilateral agreements in adverse environmental (biodiversity, climate change, desertification, etc.) are reflected in the National Strategy and Action Plan on biodiversity of wetlands and is a tool of interaction with stakeholders, ministries, agencies and non-governmental organizations

G. How can implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., on sustainable development, energy, extractive industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?

Through normative legal acts of the country along with the Ramsar Convention for implementation of policies and other strategies of sustainable development of ecosystems in general. These legal acts are listed below:

Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan of 1991;

Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on "Environmental Protection" of 2011;

Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Specially Protected Natural Areas as of 2011;

Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Environmental Expert Review of 2012;

Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Protection and Use of Flora as of 2004;

Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Fauna" of 2008;

Forest Code of the Republic of Tajikistan of 2011;

Land Code of the Republic of Tajikistan of 2011;

Water Code of the Republic of Tajikistan of 2011.

H. Do you (AA) have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

No.

I. Please list the names of the organisations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report:

- Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
- National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center
- Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Agency for Forestry under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Institute of Zoology and Parasitology under the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan
- State Institution for Specially Protected Natural Areas
- State Institution "Research Laboratory for Nature Protection"

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

REMINDER: Guidance for completing 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, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database National Reports. For that reason, **please do not use double quote marks “ ” in the free text boxes. Use single quotes ‘ ’. Text in the ‘free text’ boxes should be simple text only: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
5. To help Contracting Parties refer to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP11, for each appropriate indicator a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP11 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 implementation 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

B - No

1.1.1 Additional information:

No inventory of Ramsar sites was carried out in the country, and the country experiences difficulties in conducting such inventory due to lack of funding and qualified staff.

| | |
|---|---------|
| 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 information about biodiversity of major wetlands is stored by the Academy of Sciences and the Committee on Environmental Protection, the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center, the State Institution for Specially Protected Natural Areas. The data is available to everyone.</p> <p>Tajikistan has no comprehensive national inventory information on wetlands. It is necessary to ensure conducting an inventory of wetlands in the country. In Tajikistan, there are more than 12 wetland areas with the total area of 100 thous. hectares. However, due to lack of sources of financing it is very difficult to ensure inventory of wetlands</p> | |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the sources 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 describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p> | <p>a) O - No change b) P - Status improved</p> |
| <p>1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):</p> <p>a) a) Rehabilitation of disturbed riparian and wetland ecosystems was made within UNEP/WWF project in the Tigrovaya Balka Reserve. Relevant activities were implemented towards reconstruction of hydrological regimes of Ramsar sites and restoration of populations of the Bukhara Deer and Gazelle, which in turn resulted in significantly improved environmental situation in those wetlands.</p> <p>b) Changing of agricultural use of lands is the main problematic issue for every open area of wetlands. Degradation of lakes continues because of irrational use, climate change, the process of mineralization and pollution by pesticides (which are not rationally managed as regards agricultural use).</p> | |

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? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i (If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p> | C - In preparation |
| <p>1.3.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Action Plan for Conservation of Wetlands of the Republic of Tajikistan was adopted by the Government Decree No.392 d/d 01.09.2003.</p> | |

1.3.2 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 drawn up under the CBD
- {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

- a) C - Partly
- b) Z - Not applicable
- c) Z - Not applicable
- d) C - Partly
- e) A - Yes
- f) C - Partly
- g) A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information:

Principles of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands were included into various national programs and strategies, namely: National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2015, National Environment Programme for 2009-2019, Programme of Development of Specially Protected Natural Areas until 2015, National Strategy and Action Plan for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for 2011-2020 (for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity), National Action Plan for Protection of Environment and National Action Plan to Combat Desertification.

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

C - Partly

1.3.3 Additional information:

In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Environmental Expert Review of 16.04.2012, which regulates legal relations in the field of environmental expertise, it is needed to ensure positive environment by preventing negative environmental consequences resulted from economic and other activities. Regulation on EIA, requirements to information and reports on the results of such EIA are specified by the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan on national environmental expert review. Various commercial projects shall undergo national environmental expert review.

1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii

C - In some cases

1.3.4 Additional information:

In accordance with the instructions on EIA regarding planned economic and other activities in the Republic of Tajikistan, EIA needs to be carried out at the stage of project development and to be aimed at determining types of environmental impact resulted from proposed economic and other activities, as well as at determining relevant changes in the environment and making state-of-the environment forecast.

1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}

B - No

1.3.5 Additional information:

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 made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii

B - No

1.4.1 Additional information:

No environmental assessment and ecosystem services evaluation were carried in country as regards Ramsar sites.

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

B - No

1.4.2 Additional information:

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

C - Partly

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

Ramsar sites in the Tigrovaya Balka Reserve. Each area is followed by the description of historical and cultural sites located within the reserves or in close proximity.

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 Since COP11, 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
- {1.5.2}

- a. A - Yes
- b. B - No
- c. B - No
- d. B - No

1.5.1 Additional information:

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

- a. D - Planned
- b. D - Planned
- c. D - Planned

1.6.1 Additional information:

In accordance with the Strategy for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity for 2011-2020 it is planned to develop and adopt a methodology for assessing the value of ecosystem services and the value of biodiversity. Along with that, in accordance with the Action Plan for implementation of the Convention on Wetlands, which are of international importance specifically as regards waterbirds habitats, it is planned to develop a methodology for nature evaluation of capacity (ecosystem services) of wetlands.

WWF Russia together with WWF Netherlands, Disney Foundation and the Zoo of Minnesota implemented the project on «Integrated River Basin Management and Nature Protection in the Tigrovaja Balka, Tajikistan, Amudaria Basin". The project was aimed at conservation and rehabilitation of riparian ecosystems in Tigrovaya Balka Reserve.

In accordance with the initiative of the Government of Tajikistan, in 2007 the area of the Tigrovaya Balka Reserve was expanded by 21 thousand hectares. New added areas allow complex protection of ecosystems - both riparian and adjacent desert ecosystems. In addition, the expansion of the Reserve ensured safer natural movement of animals – previously they often used to go beyond the protected area.

Relevant works were carried out as follows: clearing overgrown natural flows of lakes, construction of a channel in order to allow fresh water supply bypass the dams, construction of a pumping station to refill the lakes of Halkokul and Dedovo.

In order to restore the population of gazelles in 2007 the Government of Tajikistan constructed first cages for overstay of animals and further preparing for release into the wild, and with the support of the project in October 2007 those cages were inhabited by first animals - 16 gazelles from Uzbekistan. In 2008, the Tigrovaya Balka Reserve celebrated its 70th anniversary. In connection with this date, the Government of Tajikistan took a decision to expand the area by 100 thousand hectares.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and WWF provided the reserve with field equipment for rangers (bicycles, binoculars and field equipment), office supplies for the information center of the Reserve and a tractor, which will allow performing necessary fire-safety measures in the reserve.

Within regional cooperation with Afghanistan and under the ENVSEC initiative, assessments of relation between the environment and security were carried out and the possibilities were specified for strengthening cooperation on such actual issues as follows: transboundary water resources, industrial pollution, jointly protected areas and ecosystems, etc. International expeditions were made to the upstreams of the Amu Darya River basin and main priorities and lines of cooperation were identified.

Major areas for cooperation on transboundary issues are as follows:

- transboundary pollution by industrial, household waste, agricultural pesticides; effects of military conflicts;
- loss of biodiversity and important natural resources (for instance forests);
- destructive natural disasters such as floods and glacial mud flows, and consequences of global warming;
- environmental load on the already vulnerable areas and social groups, for instance in Pamir mountains (Tajikistan) or in Kara-Kalpak (Uzbekistan);
- limited capacity for monitoring and data exchange, etc.

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

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

Management plans for internationally important wetlands (Ramsar), which include protected wetland complexes, were based on scientific researches. During the preparation of the Tigrovaya Balka Reserve management plan the data of previously conducted researches was used and additional field researches were carried out. Assessment of potential threats to natural complexes is included into the wetland management plans in the section "Main Threats and Factors of Negative Impact on Natural Complexes and Objects of the Reserve."

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

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

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

D - Planned

1.7.2 Additional information:

1.7.3 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii

A - Yes

1.7.3 Additional information:

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

A - Yes

1.7.4 Additional information:

Activities for conservation and rehabilitation of aquatic and coastal ecosystems (Ramsar sites) are planned as a part of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Conservation of Biodiversity for 2014-2020.

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?
{1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i

D - Planned

1.8.1 Additional information:

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

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information:

In 2007-2008, the project on rehabilitation of hydrological regime in the Vakhsh River in the water area of the Tigrovaya Balka Reserve was completed with the financial support of WWF and MFA of Norway. A number of activities was implemented by the project in the area of the reserve towards rehabilitation of the hydrological regime in order to ensure flooding and overflows into the lakes of Halkakul and Dedovo.

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? {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i

B - No

1.9.1 Additional information:

There is no official roster of invasive alien species in the country. According to the National Strategy and Action Plan for conservation of biodiversity, the fauna of Tajikistan includes about 50 alien species. Of them, about 30 species are invasive species. Among vertebrates, the largest number of alien species is accounted for a group of fish (about 20 species and forms). As a result of introduction of valuable fish species, accidental invaders like snakehead and nutria came along with those species, which subsequently brought a negative impact to the local fish fauna of the Ramsar sites in the Tigrovaya Balka Reserve.

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

C - Partly

1.9.2 Additional information:

In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Fauna " (2008), invasive alien wild animals shall be controlled as regards their number and distribution. Monitoring of alien invasive species is carried out by the Committee on Environmental Protection, the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan and subordinate institutes.

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? {1.10.1} KRA 1.10.i

B - No

1.10.1 Additional information:

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

- a. Ramsar Sites
 - b. Wetlands in general
- {1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

- a. D - Planned
- b. D - Planned

1.10.2 Additional information:

Fishery is based on biological feasibility. Hunting entities obtain permitting documentation to conduct commercial activities, that shall undergo mandatory state ecological expert review in order to ensure compliance with the principles of sustainable use of wetlands.

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? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i

B - No

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? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i

B - No

1.11.2 Additional information:

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Note: An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP12 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on each of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

REMINDER: In 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes " "; use single quotes ' ' instead.

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 *Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?* {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i

B - No

2.1.1 Additional information:

2.1.2 How many Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2015-2018)? {2.1.4} KRA 2.1.iii

6 sites

2.1.2 Additional information (If possible, please indicate the name(s) of the Site(s) and anticipated year of designation):

Six below potential objects are planned to be included into the list of Ramsar sites and further submitted to the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention:

- Syrdarya
- Zerafshan,
- Iskanderkul
- Nurek,
- Sarez
- Yashilkul.

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? {2.2.1} KRA 2.2.ii

B - No

2.2.1 Additional information:

Based on the information obtained during descriptions of the Ramsar sites, relevant decisions were made regarding the need to develop management plans and organize integrated monitoring of protected areas in ecosystems, including all Ramsar sites. The results of monitoring allow updating information on the status of Ramsar sites and making timely managerial decisions.

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? {2.3.1} KRA 2.3.i

B - No

2.3.1 Additional information:

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? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i

2 sites

2.4.2 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i

2 sites

2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i

0 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:

Two Ramsar sites have management plans, namely: Tigrovaya Balka Reserve and Tajik National Park.

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv

0 sites

2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

Ramsar sites are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan and the State Institution for Specially Protected Natural Areas of the Agency for Forestry and Hunting under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v

0 sites

2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

.....

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 the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i

B - No

2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):

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 mechanisms 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? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i

D - Planned

2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):

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? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i

Z - No negative change

2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports 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? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii

B - No

2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):

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? {2.7.1} KRA 2.7.i

B - No

2.7.1 Additional information:

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. *Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).*

3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv

C - Partly

3.1.1 Additional information:

3.1.2 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)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv

A - Yes

3.1.2 Additional information:

Good cooperation was established between the Committee on Environmental Protection and UNDP Country Office in Tajikistan in accordance with the signed agreement. The Government and UNDP jointly implement a number of international projects initiated by the Committee on Environmental Protection.

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

3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i

D - Planned

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

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

B - No

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

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 a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i | B - No |
| 3.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP11): | |
| 3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii | B - No |
| 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? {3.3.3} | B - No |
| 3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11): | |

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? {3.4.1} | D - Planned |
| 3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved): | |
| 3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv | A - Yes |

3.4.2 Additional information:

Information on Ramsar sites is available in the National Strategy and Action Plan for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of the Republic of Tajikistan, on the websites of the Committee on Environmental Protection and the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of the Republic of Tajikistan (www.biodiv.tj). Information on a number of Ramsar sites was published in the form of journals and brochures.

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

D - Planned

3.4.3 Additional information:

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 wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

D - Planned

3.5.1 Additional information:

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

B - No

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

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

D - Planned

3.5.3 Additional information:

| |
|--|
| GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY |
|--|

Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

| |
|--|
| <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 and awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.</i></p> |
|--|

4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i

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

- a) B - No
- b) B - No
- c) B - No
- d) B - No

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

4.1.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):

4.1.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

- a) at Ramsar Sites
- b) at other wetlands

- a) 0 centres
- b) 0 centres

4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

- a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management
- b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?

- a) B - No
- b) B - No

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):

| | |
|---|--|
| 4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii | B - No |
| 4.1.4 Additional information: | |
| 4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv a) at Ramsar Sites b) at other wetlands | Number of opportunities: a) 0 b) 0 |
| 4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training): | |
| 4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v | A - Yes |
| 4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has): Members to the National Ramsar Committee represent the Committee on Environmental Protection, Agency for Forestry under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, State Institution for Specially Protected Natural Areas. National Ramsar Committee meetings are held as often as needed, but at least once a year. | |
| 4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and: a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi | a) B - No b) B - No c) B - No |
| 4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place): Meetings and discussions on planned activities are held with participation of all stakeholders (local government bodies, land users, representatives of relevant services of the Committee on Environmental Protection, mass-media). Heads of regional committees on environmental protection, designated to manage Ramsar sites, annually submit reports to the Committee on Environmental Protection. | |

| | |
|---|---------|
| 4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8} | A - Yes |
| <p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>Each year on February 2, the Committee on Environmental Protection prepares and disseminates press-releases devoted to the World Day of Wetlands, holds press conferences, offers relevant presentations, publishes articles in newspapers and conducts other events.</p> | |

| | |
|--|---------|
| 4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP11 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9} | A - Yes |
| <p>4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):</p> <p>On a periodic basis, the national television broadcasts movies (clips) devoted to nature and water resources and wetlands. State Institution for Specially Protected Natural Areas (which is responsible for managing protected areas including Ramsar sites) publishes booklets and guides on touristic and natural potential of those sites; relevant information on reserves and touristic status of Ramsar sites is also being presented at exhibitions of tourism resources.</p> | |

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 2012, 2013 and 2014? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i | A - Yes |
| <p>b) If 'No' in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:</p> | |

| | |
|--|--------|
| 4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i | B - No |
| 4.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities): | |

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 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii

B - No

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

Based on the analysis of reports on implementation of the Ramsar Convention, relevant activities were formulated and included into the Protected Areas Development Programme of up to 2015 and National Strategy on implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity, aimed at conservation of wetlands, which are of international importance specifically as regards waterbirds habitats.

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? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.iii

B - No

4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):

With the support of the Government of Norway and the Zoo of Minnesota, WWF Russia implemented a project aimed at rehabilitation of wetlands and disturbed swamplands in the Tigrovaya Balka Reserve, as well at rehabilitation of riparian ecosystems and the populations of the Gazelle and Bukhara Deer.

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

B - No

4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):