



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.

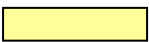

Section 2 is a ‘free-text’ section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

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: UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Ministry of Environment and Water
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Sultan Abdulla Al-Wan, Acting Undersecretary
Mailing address:	Water Resources and nature Conservation Sector, P.O. Box: 1509, Abu Hail, Dubai, UAE.
Telephone/Fax:	Tel. +971 4 2148321, Fax. +971 4 2148432
Email:	sasultan@moew.gov.ae

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

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

Name and title:	Jeruel Cabadonga Aguhop, Principal Nature Conservation Officer.
Name of organisation:	Environment Department, Dubai Municipality
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Email:	jcaguhob@dm.gov.ae

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

Name and title:	Mohammed AbdulRahman Hassan Abdulla, Head Marine Environment and Wildlife Section.
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Telephone/Fax:	Tel. +971 4 6066818, Fax. +971 4 7033532
Email:	marabdulla@dm.gov.ae

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

Name and title:	Mrs. Ida Tillisch, Director
Name of organisation:	EWS-WWF
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Telephone/Fax:	Tel. +971 4 3549776 Fax. +971 4 7033532
Email:	itillisch@ewswwf.ae

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) International technical support.
- 2) Higher management commitment.
- 3) Expose to experiences from different parts of the world.
- 4) Benefits from the available handbooks and guidelines about wetlands.
- 5) Annual celebration of the World Wetlands Day has been gaining momentum and has diffused into the other emirates. This has improved the ability to communicate on national level within conservation objectives.

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

- 1) Conflict of interests from other sector (development, investment...etc).
- 2) Lack of regional language support for better understanding and implementation.
- 3) Short term planning for steps which require longer process to report or plan properly.
- 4) Containing or mitigating the threats (e.g industrial pollution) of a Ramsar Site (i.e RAWS)
- 5) Lack of sufficient database and update on the national level.

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

- 1) National legislative framework.
- 2) Develop a national wetland inventory.
- 3) Establishing Wetlands National Technical Committee.
- 4) Human/Financial resource for proper implementation of action plans.
- 5) Inter-emirate collaboration in the implementation of CEPA projects and programs.

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

- A comprehensive training program for wetland site managers.
- To provide technical guidance or support on the following:
 - (1) Defining the ecological characters of wetlands specially in arid areas
 - (2) Establishment of wetlands visitors centers and CEPA activities
- Establishing Regional Technical Support Office/Unit for the Arabic countries
- Introduce Arabic as an official language for the convention and translate key documents (i.e. Technical guidelines) and Ramsar website as a first step.

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)

- Capacity building
- More defined guidelines with the region's language and best practice, more exposure to other successful examples.

- 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?

Synergies between Ramsar Convention and other MEAs is very important. In UAE the Biodiversity Department in the Ministry of Environment and Water is a focal point of most MEAs and there are national committee that help in following and coordinating the environmental related matters.

- 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)?

UAE have developed specific environment conservation strategies e.g. water resources management, biodiversity conservation and sustainability of marine and coastal areas. The wetland conservation was linked to these strategies. Most of the issues related to wetlands are covered in these strategies.

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

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

Environmental Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), Dubai Municipality, Fujairah Municipality, Environment and Protected Area Agency- Al Sharjah.

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	D - Planned
1.1.1 Additional information:	
1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	D - Planned
1.1.2 Additional information:	

<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</p> <p>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) P - Status improved</p> <p>b) N - Status deteriorated</p>
<p>1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):</p> <p>On Ramsar Site levels there are many examples of positive condition, such as in Ras AlKhor Wildlife Sanctuary (RAKWS) the number of waterbird species recorded and other related areas (e.g Pivot Fields, Warsan Lake) has been increasing. On the other hand, the most obvious conditional change in the RAKWS that causes concern is the encroachment of the mangroves in the mudflats.</p> <p>Changes in ecosystems throughout the UAE are occurring on a larger scale than ever before. Rapid economic, population growth and climate changes effects are among the drivers that threaten both marine and terrestrial natural habitats.</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</p> <p>(If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	<p>B - No</p>
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1.3.1 Additional information:

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) include some national targets and actions related to wetlands. Below are the adopted national targets:

TARGET 1. By 2021, implement awareness programmes that target all UAE residents, resulted in at least 75% of UAE citizens being aware of biodiversity values, its protection, and sustainable use.

TARGET 2. By 2021, biodiversity values have been integrated in national and local development planning and decision making processes.

TARGET 3. By 2021, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied considering social, economic and cultural implications.

TARGET 4. By 2021, there has been a 50% increase in the number of government-owned and non-government owned businesses implementing measures for sustainable .

TARGET 5. By 2021, the status and trends of key biodiversity components are assessed and monitored in all the UAE and knowledge is shared and linked to decision making.

TARGET 6. By 2021, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of communities related to sustainable use of biodiversity are taken into consideration when developing national and local legislation and policies.

TARGET 7. By 2021, the UAE is ranked within the top 10 countries in the field of the protection of biodiversity in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI).

TARGET 8. By 2021, 12% of terrestrial and 14% of coastal and marine areas are conserved through an effectively managed, ecologically representative network of protected areas, taking into account, as appropriate, connecting areas of particular importance to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

TARGET 9. By 2021, programmes developed and implemented to improve the conservation status of 70% of species most threatened by extinction.

TARGET 10. By 2021, the rate of loss of natural habitats, including critical habitats, is reduced by 25%.

TARGET 11. By 2021, at least 50% of degraded habitats are undergoing restoration to help mitigate against the impacts of climate change and combating desertification.

TARGET 12. By 2021, at least 90% of restoration plans of degraded ecosystems that provide essential services have been implemented.

TARGET 13. By 2021, important genetic resources are conserved and protected in the UAE.

TARGET 14. By 2021, at least 70% of important and vulnerable living marine resources are managed sustainably.

TARGET 15. By 2021, 50% of government-owned and of non-government-owned areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably to ensure the conservation of biodiversity.

TARGET 16. By 2021, all land- and water-based pollution has been brought to levels not detrimental to sensitive ecosystem function and biodiversity.

TARGET 17. By 2021, all introduced invasive species and pathways are identified, and management plans to control the prioritised ones are developed and implemented.

TARGET 18. By 2018, action plans are developed and implementation started to minimise the additional anthropogenic impacts on marine ecosystems sensitive to climate change.

TARGET 19. By 2016, the NBSAP has been adopted by the federal government and implementation started at all levels in the UAE.

TARGET 20. By 2016, adequate financial, human and technical resources are allocated to effectively implement the NBSAP at the federal and emirate levels.

TARGET 21. By 2021, all biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) are implemented effectively and consistently.

<p>1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Z - Not applicable b) C - Partly c) A - Yes d) C - Partly e) C - Partly f) D - Planned g) A - Yes
<p>1.3.2 Additional information:</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
<p>1.3.3 Additional information: It is applied in Emirat of Abu Dhabi but not yet at the federal level.</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.4 Additional information: A ccording to UAE Fedral Law (24) EIA is mandatory for any development projects.</p>	

1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}	C - In progress
<p>1.3.5 Additional information:</p> <p>UAE has established a strong legal framework to safeguard its valuable and vulnerable natural resources from the negative impacts of human activities. For example Article 2 of Federal Law No. (24), for Protection and Development of the Environment outlines the objectives and general principles concerned: Protect the environment; preserve its diversity and natural equilibrium; Fight all forms of pollution and avoid harmful immediate or long-term adverse effects resulting from planning for economical, agricultural or industrial or constructional development or any development programs aiming to upgrade the standard of living; Agency co-ordination with other concerned authorities and departments in order to preserve the environment, its diversity and the natural equilibrium, and consolidate concepts of environmental awareness and principles of pollution prevention. Currently Law No. (24) is currently under review.</p> <p>Also the Federal Law No. (23), governs the exploitation, protection and development of marine biological resources. Fishing, protection of restricted areas, processing and marketing of fish, the extension of grants and loans to fishermen and the export, re-export and transit of fish products are all covered. The new law sets forth procedures for registration of vessels (expressly limiting their number) and of fishermen and for licensing of their activities. Catch limits are to be set by the MoEW. There are provisions to regulate the minimum animal sizes caught, introduce closed seasons, and restrict fishing activity in certain areas. Fishing methods are also considered, with bans on the use of certain equipment or particular methods – for example, nylon nets, drift nets, bottom-trawling and the use of narcotics and explosives. The construction of artificial reefs requires Ministry approval as well as that of the Competent Authority in the specific Emirate. Fish farms also require permission to operate.</p>	

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	C - Partly
<p>1.4.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Database Initiatives (AGEDI) have studied the blue carbon sequestration in different coastal habitats. The Ecosystem Services Assessment component of the Abu Dhabi Blue Carbon Demonstration Project provides information about co-benefits being delivered from Abu Dhabi's Blue Carbon ecosystems. These benefits, comprising both provisioning and regulating ecosystem services, make the mangrove, seagrass, salt marsh, sabkha, and algal mat ecosystems that can be found along the coast, around the islands, and offshore in the Emirate particularly valuable. These services are only beginning to be understood and quantified; some values are already recognized as significant, but all can be considered potentially important, to be further defined in future studies.</p>	

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	Z - Not applicable
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	D - Planned
1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):	

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. D - Planned b. D - Planned c. D - Planned d. A - Yes
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. B - No b. A - Yes c. A - Yes
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1.6.1 Additional information:

The Abu Dhabi Blue Carbon Demonstration Project, commissioned by the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) on behalf of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) aims to improve the understanding of carbon sequestration and other services that coastal and marine Blue Carbon ecosystems provide within Abu Dhabi Emirate. The focus was on the “traditional” Blue Carbon ecosystems: mangroves and salt marsh (intertidal); and, seagrass meadows (subtidal), algal mats and coastal sabkha were also sampled as potential Blue Carbon ecosystems as the project assessed the ability of these to both sequester and store carbon. Based on the most recent updates to the habitat layers, the total extent of blue carbon ecosystems in Abu Dhabi is 188,000ha (0.28% of the total area of the Abu Dhabi Emirate) Combining these spatial results with those obtained from the carbon baseline assessment, seagrasses in Abu Dhabi are calculated to store an estimated 30 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂ equivalent) within the soil and biomass. Mangrove area is estimated at approximately 14,000ha, storing 5 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent; Salt marsh area is estimated at 4,800ha and stores a total of 1.2 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent; Algal mats extended over 10,930ha and were found to contain the highest carbon stock per unit area (130 Mg/ha-1), contributing to nearly 5.2 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. As a result of the carbon baseline assessment coastal sabkhas have been identified as an associated Blue Carbon ecosystem as although they do not actively sequester carbon, they do cap buried former Blue Carbon soil deposits and therefore prevent the release of stored carbon.

Currently there are plans to study the blue carbon sequestration in coastal habitats in all emirates.

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:

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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

1.7.1 Additional information:

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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}

1.7.2 Additional information:

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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

D - Planned

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

B - No

1.7.4 Additional information:

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:

- The RAKWS is currently developing a master plan.

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:

Currently restoration/rehabilitation programs have been implemented only in Ramsar sites. Some examples are below:

- The designated Ramsar sites in Sharjah have been under a natural rehabilitation projects. These projects started in Sir Bu Nair since 2000 and in al Qurm Wa Alhafeya in Khor Kalba since the declaration in 2010 and they continue till now with good positive results on marine life and vegetation which reflected on birds populations.

-In Dubai the RAKWS, wading areas were created next to the bird watch hides. Previously, the areas immediate in front of the hides are areas that are just inundated during tidal changes. With the scraping/shallow excavation of the areas birds are now frequenting because of food. This also increased the wading areas in the sanctuary and enhanced the visitor's experience.

- In Fujairah they identify few locations in Wadi Wurayah National Park (WWNP) that been heavily affected by visitors, most of the degradation occurs at these location was due to littering and graffiti. The park is closed now for public, the affected sites are following a proper maintenance plan to restore them into their natural state. From the other hand the management of the park is looking into reintroducing some of the endemic species used to thrive in the past, some of these species has disappeared due to the extensive poaching, the team is trying to assess the situation, reduce the threats and studying the feasibility of re-introducing these species again to the wild.

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

D - Planned

1.9.1 Additional information:

.....

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

D - Planned

1.9.2 Additional information:

.....

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	A - Yes
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	a. A - Yes
b. Wetlands in general	b. A - Yes
{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii	
1.10.2 Additional information:	
<p>- In 2009, Dutco Balfour Beatty LLC, a construction company, assisted Dubai Municipality in the construction of tracks in the RAKWS to improve the accessibility in certain areas. In 2012-2013, the ETA Star LLC, another construction company, has been collaborating with the Dubai Municipality on crating wader scrape areas in the RAKWS. Both collaborations were part of the company's social responsibility related to environmental concerns. Other example from Fujairah where HSBC Bank was the main sponsor for the water research and learning program established in WWNP since 2013. HSBC also sponsored the feasibility studies which lead to the creation of WWNP in 2009</p>	

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	---
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	---
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 <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List</i> ? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	D - Planned
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	3 sites
<p>2.1.2 Additional information (If possible, please indicate the name(s) of the Site(s) and anticipated year of designation):</p> <p>- Jabal Ali Marine Sanctuary: The area is the last remaining nesting site of the Hawksbill seaturtle in the Emirate of Dubai. Endangered species like the Dugong is observed to be feeding in the area. Coral reef restoration projects and programs have been conducted in the area (i.e coral transplantation).</p> <p>- Rul Dibba-Alafaqet: Located 50km North to Fujairah city near to Dibba Fujairah, the area is officially announced as a marine protected area in 1995 according to the Emiri Decree No. 1.Rul Dibba and is around 1,100 x 1810 x 760 meters, the PA has a small island that provide shelter for some endangered species of corals and other marine species.</p> <p>- Alzora Sanctuary: Alzora Sanctuary lies within the northern part of the Emirate of Ajman, which is located at the end of the 7 km long Ajman coast on the west coast of UAE. Alzora is one of the Important Bird Area (IBA) in the Anatolian-Iranian Desert biogeographic region, supporting a diversity of coastal water bird species, especially in winter and during passage periods.</p>	

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	A - Yes
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2.2.1 Additional information:

.....

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

C - Some sites

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

3 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

3 sites

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

2 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:

The sites which have developed a management plans are: Ras Al Khor, Al Wathba Wetland Reserve and Wadi Wurayah National Park. However, two other sites are working now in reviewing their management plans (Mangrove and Alhafeya Protected Area in Khor Kalba, Sir Bu Nair Island Protected Area).

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

1 sites

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

- RAKWS has a management committee that is composed of members from the business sector, private sector and government institutions.
- Wadi Wurayah National Park management plan has proposed a committee that have representatives from different stakeholders. The formulation of this committee is ongoing.

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):

UAE have adopted an Protected Areas management Effectiveness as a national indicator by the ministerial cabinet. In May 2014 the Ministry of Environment and Water have organised a national training workshop for all the emirates. Starting from 2015 all the protected areas in the country will be assessed annually for their management effectiveness.

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

A - Yes

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

The biodiversity and destification combating National team is discussing the wetland related issues on a regular basis. This team is led by the ministry and composed of members from the different emirates competent authorities.

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	A - Yes
<p>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):</p> <p>For RAKWS the EIA reports for development projects of Business Bay, and the Lagoons has been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for Evaluation. Emaar (i.e. the site developer) need to submit their EIA in due course. Ramsar Advisory Mission has to visit the area, but postponed till further advise.</p>	
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	Z - Not applicable
<p>2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p> <p>.....</p>	

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	D - Planned
<p>2.7.1 Additional information:</p> <p>UAE have adopted two related strategies Biodiversity strategy and marine and coastal areas sustainability strategy. Both strategies have national targets and actions to conserve the wetlands.</p>	

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

A - Yes

3.1.1 Additional information:

They attend all meetings and workshop related to wetlands.

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

C - Partly

3.1.2 Additional information:

The Ramsar Administrative Authority have regular meetings with UNEP and FAO. Moreover, they participate in different regional meetings and workshop organised by The Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME).

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

B - No

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}

A - Yes

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

- (1) Management of Wetlands According to Ramsar Criteria Workshop, Jordan: A workshop to trial a newly developed Arabic language wetland management planning training program was held from 15-19 December 2012 at the Azraq Oasis Ramsar Site, Kingdom of Jordan. The Arabic language wetland management planning workshop at the Azraq Oasis was made possible through a financial donation from the Fujairah Municipality, United Arab Emirates. The training course and kits were developed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in Jordan, with technical support from the Fujairah Municipality, WWF Tunisia and the Ramsar Secretariat.
- (2) Water Research and Learning Program: The Water Research and Learning Program in Wadi Wurayah National Park "WWNP, Fujairah was launched in September 2013. This program, is the first of its kind in the Middle East, is committed to research on the biodiversity of freshwater areas and spreading awareness on freshwater issues. Every week except in summer time, a teams of volunteers from across the Middle East and North Africa travel to WWNP to participate in an intensive 5-day hands-on program that contribute to water ecosystem research and conservation activities, and to learn about freshwater challenges faced by the management team. Since the beginning of this program more than 26 volunteers from HSBC Bank Middle East Ltd employees from across the region. The program has host eight main research activities inside Wadi Wurayah National Park, including a freshwater watch, dragonfly tagging, and camera trapping, among others. The Water Research and Learning Program in Wadi Wurayah is designed and implemented by EWS-WWF, Earthwatch, with the support of the government of Fujairah and funds from HSBC Bank Middle East Ltd.

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

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

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}	---
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}	B - No
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: -Press Conference. -Local News (Arabic and English). -Website. -Social Media -Information panels at protected area entrance. -The Dubai Municipality (DM) is maintaining a website (www.wildlife.ae) dedicated to the RAKWS. A booklet was also published in 2012 that features the biodiversity of the sanctuary as well as its plans and programs. DM also celebrates the WWD annually. - In WWNP the site management team maintain good relation with the media through the communication department, to insure their engagement in most of the activities. Also they publish continuously project updates and new findings. Journalists from newspapers, magazines, local and international TV channels are always invited to visit the site.	

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	A - Yes
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

B - No

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

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information:

UAE have signed different MOUs that related to migratory species such as (Dugongs, sharks, Raptors, turtles) and is an active country in supporting the conservation of these species through different initiatives such as Mohamed Bin Zaid Conservation Fund.

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

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

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

<p>4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) At the national level b) Sub-national level c) Catchment/basin level d) Local/site level</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(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)</p>	<p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) D - Planned b) C - In progress c) C - In progress d) A - Yes</p>
<p>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 CEPANFPs):</p> <p>- In most of the Ramsar sites there are plans however with few activity. CEPA have been implemented but limited due to facility and carrying capacity. For example in RAKWS CEPA is incorporated in the annual plan of the Dubai Municipality Environment Department's environmental awareness activities. WWNP have one running educational program "WRLP", this program is designed to cover five years period until 2018. Another education/public awareness program is expected to be launched in 2015. More comprehensive CEPA plan to be adopted once the management plan is approved.</p>	
<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) at Ramsar Sites b) at other wetlands</p>	<p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) 2 centres b) 0 centres</p>
<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):</p> <p>In Dubai RAKWS has two open bird watch towers for visitors to observe the biodiversity in the sanctuary.</p> <p>In Fujairah WWNP has a welcoming facility as part of the water research and learning program.</p> <p>Sharjah have plans for developing visitor centers for ramsar sites in the emirates in the years 2015 and 2017.</p>	

<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>a) A - Yes</p> <p>b) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Usually the Ramsar site nominations comes from the competent authority in the emirate. They consult local stakeholders before submitting officially the nomination file to the Ministry of Environment and Water (the administration authority). - RAKWS has a management committee that is composed of members from the business sector, private sector and government institutions. - WWNP through the proposed management plan and governance structure. 	
<p>4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?</p> <p>{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii</p>	<p>C - Partly</p>
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>Number of opportunities:</p> <p>a) 10</p> <p>b) 0</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numerous trainings, conferences and workshops has been attended by some of the Ramsar sites management staff mainly on the management of protected areas where indirectly, wetland management are tackled. - Fujairah Municipality have supported the Management of Wetlands According to Ramsar Criteria Workshop, Jordan: A workshop to trial a newly developed Arabic language wetland management planning training program was held from 15-19 December 2012 at the Azraq Oasis Ramsar Site, Kingdom of Jordan. The Arabic language wetland management planning workshop at the Azraq Oasis were made possible through a financial donation from the Fujairah Municipality, United Arab Emirates. The training course and kit was developed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in Jordan, with technical support from the Fujairah Municipality, WWF Tunisia and the Ramsar Secretariat. 	

<p>4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>The ministry always inviting other related sectors to wetlands meetings and workshops.</p>	
<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:</p> <p>a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies</p> <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>a) A - Yes b) A - Yes c) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>These information are shared regularly during meetings, workshops and by e-mails. The MoEW have three committee includes members form the different competent authorities at different levels. The Environment coordination committee (Higher level), the municipalities affairs committee and the biodiversity and desertification team.</p>	
<p>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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>- In UAE the World Wetland Day has been celebrated annually. Each of the emirates have different events.</p>	
<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}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):</p> <p>- In Dubai, the World Migratory Bird Day has been celebrated since 2008 and is directly linked with the programs of the RAKWS. An annual seminar is conducted during the celebration as well as exhibits. Occasionally, competitions, such as painting and photography, are conducted to encourage the public in directly participating in the event.</p> <p>- Management of Wetlands According to Ramsar Criteria Workshop, Jordan</p> <p>- In WWNP the Water Research and Learning Program.</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
b) If 'No' in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:	
.....	
4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} 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	A - Yes
4.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):	
The biodiversity and desertification combating National team is following the use of previous reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention. The MoEW have conducted several training workshops and awareness campaigns to address the points raised in the previous report. Recently UAE have adopted an Protected Areas management Effectiveness as a national indicator by the ministerial cabinet.	

STRATEGY 4.4 Working with IOPs and others. <i>Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs *) and others.</i>
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* 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	A - Yes
<p>4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2008, the Emirates of Dubai has received assistance from the agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) particularly on the celebration of the World Migratory Birds Day. The AEWA sends educational materials that are distributed during seminars and exhibits. WWF was also involved at the beginning stage when RAKWS was nominated as a Ramsar site. - WWNP is managed jointly between Fujairah Municipality and EWS-WWF they receive technical support from WWF International on various issues like management planning, governance and sustainable finance. 	
4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.4.2} KRA 4.4.iii	A - Yes
<p>4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Water Bird Census "IWC": Different Ramsar sites are surveyed in the international water bird census organized by Wetlands International and coordinated by Environment Agency in Abu Dhabi on the country level. Every year the team covers around 14 wetland on the east coast of the UAE, 11 of these wetlands are in Fujairah Emirate encompass different type of wetland vary between coastal areas to mangrove and fresh water human made wetlands. 	