

Ramsar National Report to COP13

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 <http://www.ramsar.org/search-contact>.

Name of Contracting Party

The completed National Report **must be accompanied by a letter** in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP13 National Report. It can be attached to this question using the "Manage documents" function (blue symbol below)

> THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[PNG's National Report Letter.pdf](#)

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority

> Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA)

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

> Gunther Joku, Managing Director

Mailing address

> P.O.Box 6601, Boroko 111, National Capital District, Papua New Guinea

Email

> officesec@dec.gov.pg

Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title

> Gunther Joku, Managing Director

Mailing address

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Designated National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)

Name and title

> Professor Simon Saulei

Name of organisation

> University of Papua New Guinea

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Designated Government National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Programme on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)

Name and title

> Ms. Kay Kalim, Director Sustainable Environment Programs

Name of organisation

> Conservation and Environment Protection Authority

Mailing address

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Email

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Designated Non-Government National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Programme on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)

Name and title

> Mr. Thomas Bense, Manager

Name of organisation

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Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP12 reporting)

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

- 1)
 - › National Policy on Protected Areas was finalized and endorsed by the Parliament. The Policy provides for the existing two Ramsar Sites both of which are Wildlife Management Areas as well conservation of wetlands in general.
- 2)
 - › The assessment of management effectiveness of priority protected areas including the two existing Ramsar Sites has been completed.
- 3)
 - › A PNG National Protected Areas Act (the Bill is in its final stage for NEC endorsement) has been developed.
- 4)
 - › PPP network in conservation strengthened; e.g., ExxonMobil's Biodiversity Strategy
- 5)
 - › Establishment of Donor & BiEA/ MEA Coordination Unit within CEPA to solely focus on these obligations

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

- 1)
 - › Inadequate funding for conservation work including the conservation of wetlands
- 2)
 - › Lack of capacity at CEPA to update/prepare wetland inventory, Ramsar Information Sheets for existing two Ramsar Sites and the new site 'Upper Sepik River Basin' including other proposals
- 3)
 - › Lack of capacity at CEPA to monitor effectively all protected areas including Ramsar Sites
- 4)
 - › Completing land uses for mining, oil, gas, forestry and conservation
- 5)
 - › Land tenure issues and insufficient support from local communities

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

- 1)
 - › Finalize the designation of the Upper Sepik River Basin as PNG's 3rd Ramsar Site
- 2)
 - › Prepare Bootless Bay nomination before November 2018
- 3)
 - › Prepare Lake Kutubu and Tonda Ramsar Information Sheets' update
- 4)
 - › Support Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM) to building capacity of CEPA to work with oil and gas industry
- 5)
 - › Identify potential Ramsar Sites that will be able to accommodate for other initiatives, e.g., Ecosystem-Based Disaster Risk Reduction, World Heritage Sites and others

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

- › Annual country visit for technical and administrative support, for example, PNG benefited from a recent mission by the Ramsar Secretariat (Sept 2017) in terms of the team's advice on the implementation process

of the Convention through meetings with various organizations, community representatives, private sector etc.

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)

> We recommend that IOPs assist with documenting and preparing integrated land use and management plans for Ramsar Sites, conduct assessment/survey of biodiversity inventory, invasive species, potential disaster risks from extractive industries (e.g., oil and gas pipeline within the vicinity of the Lake Kutubu Ramsar Site).

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' (Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), World Heritage Convention (WHC), and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)?

> Coordinating quarterly reviews and national updates through the Ramsar's Focal Point will be a way forward to improving linkages and identifying gaps with other MEAs.

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)?

> The Ramsar Convention is being aligned well in the recently approved Protected Area Policy (2014) as well as the PA Bill (pending NEC endorsement). It will better be linked if the Focal Point gives directives for the review and integration of frameworks, policies and strategies to deliver outcomes for effectiveness, management and monitoring of Ramsar Sites as well as other PAs.

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

> The Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) is a mandated organisation to implement (14) conventions that the Government of Papua New Guinea is a party to. Ramsar to assist to identify funding source(s) to establish a desk that will focus solely on the Ramsar Convention.

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

> Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), CEPA (Kokoda Initiative)

Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

Target 1

Wetland benefits are featured in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.

1.1 Have wetland issues/benefits been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.3.2} {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

Please select only one per square.

a) National Policy or strategy for wetland management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
b) Poverty eradication strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
e) Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
f) National forest programmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
g) National policies or measures on agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
i) National policies on energy and mining	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant

j) National policies on tourism	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
k) National policies on urban development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
l) National policies on infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
m) National policies on industry	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
n) National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
o) National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
p) National policies on wastewater management and water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant

1.1 Additional information

> Require establishing a Desk to be on full time basis for activity implementation and reporting. Alignment and linkages of frameworks, strategies and policies to be coordinated from the Desk.

Target 2

Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone

2.1 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed to support the implementation of the Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1, VIII.2) ? 1.24.

B=No

2.1 Additional Information

> Most assessment had to do with inventories and invasives, not with the quality and quantity of water. It will be better if specific activity as such to be outsourced for assessment to determine outcomes.

2.2 Have assessments of environmental flow been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands (Action r3.4.iv)

B=No

2.2 Additional Information

> There are no assessment records of environment flow, this is one of the priority areas that need to be considered. Activities need to be planned to maintain free environmental flow. Engagement of institutions for immediate research and data collection is required.

2.3 Have Ramsar Sites improved the sustainability of water use in the context of ecosystem requirements?

O=No Change

2.3 Additional Information

> Has not been improved but remain the same. Tonda is isolated and access is difficult, population is low and water is abundant to support communities (human, fauna and flora) there. Lake Kutubu on the other hand may need to be assessed to determine its status. Lake Kutubu is surrounded by impact projects with increasing communities around the lake.

2.4 Have the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12) been used/applied in decision-making processes. (Action 3.4.6.)

A=Yes

2.4 Additional Information

> Guidelines for maintaining ecological functions has continued to compliment other in country initiatives, policies and regulations for effective management.

2.5 Have projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands been developed (Action r3.4.ix.)

A=Yes

2.5 Additional Information

> CEPA has a regulator of projects that ensure there is good and transparent practice for projects. Site assessments, reporting and monitoring are CEPA's roles and responsibilities to put projects on track.

2.6 How many household/municipalities are linked to sewage system? SDG Target 6.3.1.

X=Unknown

2.6 Additional Information

> The two Ramsar Sites (Lake Kutubu and Tonda) are remote and away from towns and cities thus have minimum or less impact on the wetlands.

2.7 What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country? SDG Target 6.3.1.

X=Unknown

2.7 Additional Information

> Majority of PNG population are rural based and towns and cities are only areas that are linked to sewerage. Percentage coverage on record is unknown.

2.8 What is the percentage of users of septic tank/pit latrine? SDG Target 6.3.1.

X=Unknown

2.9 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? SDG Target 6.3.1.

B=No

2.10 How do the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology perform? SDG Target 6.3.1.

Y=Not Relevant

2.11 How many centralised wastewater treatment plants exist at national level? SDG Target 6.3.1.

Y=Not Relevant

2.12 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants? SDG Target 6.3.1.

Y=Not Relevant

2.13 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is? SDG Target 6.3.1.

Y=Not Relevant

2.14 Is there a wastewater reuse system? SDG Target 6.3.1.

B=No

2.15 What Is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system? SDG Target 6.3.1.

Y=Not Relevant

Target 3

Public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands. {1.10}

3.1 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

C=Partially

3.1 Additional Information

> Partially, and documented guidelines disseminated to clients for guidance.

3.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the conservation, wise use and management of {1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Sites	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
b) Wetlands in general	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant

3.2 Additional information

> a) - Yes, private sector undertaken activities (Lake Kutubu) support conservation efforts b) - No, sometimes difficult due to land tenure system that require community endorsement, participation and support.

3.3 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i

D=Planned

3.3 Additional information

> Incentive measures are captured in the Protected Area Policy and will fully be implemented upon the NEC endorsement of the PA Bill.

3.4 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i

A=Yes

3.4 Additional Information

> Yes, consultations between landowners, partners, stakeholders and levels of government for corrective measures - positive outcomes.

Target 4

Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.

4.1 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

A=Yes

4.1 Additional information

> The National Inventory is housed under the Dept. Agriculture & Livestock. a) – Tonda, with the assessment update yes, we will have record of status b) – Lake Kutubu, yes, water hyacinths including the introduction of tilapia which pose threat to the 12 endemic spp. of fresh water fish.

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

B=No

4.2 Additional information

> National Policy and Guidelines on invasive species control and management last reviewed in 2010 and that was when all the active members representing different organisation exited the public service.

4.3 How many invasive species are being controlled through management actions.

G=More than (species)

> 5

4.3 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information

> More than 5 main spp. different methods used and succeed in some areas and failed in other areas.

4.4 Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?

X=Unknown

4.4 Additional information

> Lake Kutubu Ramsar Site has a catchment management plan which includes the invasive alien species control however, so far no monitoring or assessment was done. Tonda Ramsar Site does not have a species control plan but community education awareness and training were undertaken to eradicate invasive weeds such as water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and giant sensitive tree (*Mimosa pigra*) in the early 2000.

Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

Target 5

The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective, planning and integrated management {2.1.}

5.1 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

A=Yes

5.1 Additional information

> The PNG Policy on Protected Areas (approved in 2014) gave a new approach on the establishment and declaration of various kinds of protected areas including Ramsar Sites. This has also been improved through the development of the new national Protected Areas Bill (draft 2017), which shall be approved by the PNG National Executive Council (NEC) soon in 2018.

5.2 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

5.2 Additional information

> It is applicable in the national setting and PNG has been using the guidance from the Ramsar Sites Information Service for the nomination and at the same time designation of new Ramsar Sites.

5.3 How many Ramsar Sites have an effective, implemented management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i

E=Exact number (sites)

> 1

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

E=Exact number (sites)

> 1

5.5 For how many Ramsar Sites is effective management planning currently being implemented (outside of formal management plans ? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i

E=Exact number (sites)

> 1

5.3 – 5.5 Additional information

> There are two Ramsar Sites in PNG namely; Lake Kutubu in Southern Highland Province and Tonda in the South Fly of Western Province. These two sites are also designated as the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and are using the same boundaries as Ramsar Sites. Lake Kutubu has a detailed catchment management plan and was in effect since 2008. However, Tonda Ramsar Site lacks one and WWF including other relevant stakeholders such as Fly River Provincial Government and CEPA are keen to support the preparation of a management plan for Tonda.

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (through formal management plans where they exist or otherwise through existing actions for appropriate wetland management ? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii

B=No

5.6 Additional information

> The two Ramsar Sites (Lake Kutubu and Tonda) have been recently assessed for their management effectiveness using the METT by SPREP (2017).

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

E=Exact number (sites)

> 0

5.7 Additional information

If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites

> For the two designated Ramsar Sites in PNG, there are no cross-sectoral management committee, but now, PNG have plans (National Protected Area Policy / Legislation 2014) to revive the MEAs and develop plans to accommodate for issues regarding Ramsar. In a meantime, interim arrangements for the committees on other PA types on sites are there to perform similar roles of cross-sectoral Management Committees.

5.8 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared (see Resolution X.15)? {2.4.5} {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v

E=Exact number (sites)

> 2

5.8 Additional information

If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites

> The detailed ecological information of both Ramsar Sites (Lake Kutubu and Tonda) in PNG are well documented and the significance of these sites are available on the public domain such as websites. Various institutions such as WWF and the oil and gas industries like ExxonMobil and Oil Search Ltd have most of these ecological data and information for these sites.

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

A=Yes

5.9 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15, and the source of the information

> Only one assessment for the effectiveness of the management of both Ramsar Sites (Tonda and Lake Kutubu) were conducted using METT in mid 2017. This assessment was supported through the financial and technical assistance from South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and UNDP and CEPA were engaged in the community mobilization and consultation for these two sites including other protected areas in PNG. A total of 58 protected areas were assessed including these two Ramsar Sites.

Target 7

Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed {2.6.}.

7.1 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

7.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established

> CEPA has learned from the population expansion and impacts from the extractive industries particularly the oil and gas and unsustainable logging activities. Thus, CEPA is addressing these threats through collaboration with these relevant industry partners in order to influence the strict or stronger environmental compliance practices or standards. Further, the Policy on Protected Areas (2014) and the draft PA Bill have given a boost for improved governance and effective compliance and management effectiveness.

7.2 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

C=Some Cases

7.2 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

> There are still gaps in terms of reporting; changes may be minor in one area (no one on site to report or resources are lacking), while at one site, reporting will be effective as there are partners there that will be playing different roles but will be responsible in delivering sustainable livelihood outcomes to surrounding communities.

7.3 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

7.3 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken

> It is NO, however there have been some issues which have been addressed locally on the national level regarding the fish die-off in Lake Kutubu in 2013 and 2014. This was addressed through the former Ramsar Oceania Regional Officer, Vainuupo Jungblut who visited PNG in 2014 and was informed by CEPA that from the reports of the independent assessments from the University of Papua New Guinea determined that these fish died from natural causes and not from the pollution or impacts from the oil and gas operations in the area. Hence, the threat seriousness was not severe and therefore was not reported to the Ramsar Secretariat to be listed on the Montreux Record. The seriousness of the case may have gone down well with the Administrative Authority due to the three independent assessment that was conducted or the progress of reporting was disrupted due to continuous changes within the Administrative Authority structure which did not have any clue of the seriousness of the fish die-off issue. It was through the Ramsar technical mission in Sept 2017 that visited the Lake Kutubu and shared light on the approaches to issues as that of the Lake Kutubu. Now a Ramsar Advisory Mission that Japanese government is supporting is being planned to visit the Lake in April/May 2018. The visit will pave way to strengthening the Government of Papua New Guinea Administrative Focal Point reporting process to the Ramsar Secretariat

Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

Target 8

National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

8.1 Does your country have a complete National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

B=No

8.1 Additional information

> PNG requires having one. One of the requirements for PAs is to have an inventory, Ramsar sites are additional PA tags that are added on (to existing PAs) and not difficult to organise protection in terms of the processes. Doing one inventory for one PA type will compliment other PA types that require an inventory as a requirement (WMA, WHS, a Conservation Area or a Ramsar Site).

8.2 Has your country updated a National Wetland Inventory in the last decade?

B=No

8.2 Additional information

> PNG does not have a wetland Inventory, but for date, Exxon Mobil has launched a Biodiversity Strategy article for the Lake Kutubu WMA and Ramsar Site and WWF collected data for the Tonda WMA and Ramsar Site.

8.3 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii

C=Partially

8.3 Additional information

> Few organisations like Environmental Groups, NGOs (WWF), extractive industry (Oil Search and ExxonMobil) and research institutions such as CSIRO in Australia have over the years conducted ecological studies and collected and documented wetlands information for PNG including that of the two Ramsar Sites. The data or the information have been shared with CEPA, which stored the biodiversity information data .

8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii

C=Partially

8.4 Additional information

> This has been a struggling scenario for PNG because not all wetland inventory data and information have been made readily available on public domain. This has created discussions among key government institutions responsible for managing these data and information on how different stakeholders in possession of various data and information could share with each other. The discussion on data and information sharing guideline/strategy was agreed to be implemented as part of the Protected Areas Implementation Plan (PAIP) for PNG in the next 5 years (PAIP, 2017).

8.5 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed during the last triennium? {1.1.3}

Please describe on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the 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).

* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Sites	<input type="checkbox"/> N=Status Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O=No Change <input type="checkbox"/> P=Status Improved
b) Wetlands generally	<input type="checkbox"/> N=Status Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O=No Change <input type="checkbox"/> P=Status Improved

8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b)

> a) The general status of the two Ramsar Sites have not changed since their designation – Tonda in 1993 and Lake Kutubu in 1998. b) Generally, the wetlands in PNG are in good condition. However, the major key drivers which might contribute to these changes in the wetlands are deforestation from large scale forest clearance for timber (logging), oil and gas exploration activities, land clearance for subsistence gardening by local people, and bush fires during dry seasons.

8.6 Based upon the National Wetland Inventory if available please provide a baseline figure in square kilometres for the extent of wetlands (according to the Ramsar definition) for the year 2017. SDG Target 6.6

X=Unknown

8.6 Additional information

If the information is available please indicate the % of change in the extent of wetlands over the last three years.

> PNG has a total of 5, 383 lakes with a surface area greater than 0.1 hectare. 75% of these lakes are found in the Western and East Sepik provinces. (Source: <http://malumnalu.blogspot.com/2011/02/wetlands-of-papua-new-guinea.html>)

Lake Murray in Western province with a surface area of 650 sq km is the largest of these lakes with an approximate depth of 10m. The second largest is the Chambri Lakes in East Sepik province with a surface area of just less than 600 sq km and filling a shallow depression of the Sepik flood plains. These wetlands are home to large tracts of mangrove and Nipa Palms, the most-extensive spread found in the Kikori and the Purari Delta in the Gulf of Papua.

Target 9

The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate

scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone {1.3.}.

9.1 Is a Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) that promotes the wise use of wetlands 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

C=In Preparation

9.1 Additional information

> PNG does not have a Wetland Policy, however; the Wetland Initiative is captured in the Implementation Plan of the the PA Policy.

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

A=Yes

9.2 Additional information

> The Implementation Plan of the PNG Policy on Protected Areas (CEPA, 2014) and the draft national Protected Areas Bill (in progress, 2018).

9.3 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? {1.7.1} {1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii

D=Planned

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

D=Planned

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

C=Partially

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

A=Yes

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

Please select only one per square.

a) agriculture-wetland interactions	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
b) climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
c) valuation of ecosystem services	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned

9.8 Has your country submitted a request for Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention, Resolution XII.10 ?

B=No

Target 10

The traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.

10.1 Have the guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands including traditional

knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19) been used or applied?.(Action 6.1.2/ 6.1.6)

A=Yes

10.2 Have case studies, participation in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands been compiled. Resolution VIII.19 and Resolution IX.21? (Action 6.1.6)

A=Yes

10.3 Have the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands been used or applied. (Resolution VII. 8) (Action 6.1.5)

A=Yes

10.4 Traditional knowledge and management practices relevant for the wise use of wetlands have been documented and their application encouraged (Action 6.1.2)

A=Yes

Target 11

Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. {1.4.}

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii

A=Yes

11.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, how many Ramsar Sites and their names

> Both Tonda and Lake Kutubu

11.2 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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

11.3 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names

> Both Tonda nad Lake Kutubu

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

A=Yes

11.4 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names

> The catchment management plan for Lake Kutubu captures specific aspects of cultural and traditional values of the wetlands and the significance of these ecosystems for the local community. This was also picked by the oil and gas industries (Exxon Mobil and Oil Search Ltd) in their Biodiversity Strategic Plans. For instance, Exxon has incorporated the cultural values of the Lake Kutubu catchment in their 'Biodiversity Off-set Strategy' (2015).

Target 12

Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation. {1.8.}

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

C=Partially

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

X=Unknown

Target 13

Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods

13.1 Have actions been taken to enhance sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands?

A=Yes

13.1. Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken

> At Lake Kutubu, ExxonMobil is active in addressing livelihood programs with communities living within the Ramsar Site.

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

A=Yes

13.2 Additional information

> ExxonMobil document a Biodiversity strategy plan for Lake Kutubu.

13.3 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) from key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries that may affect wetlands?

{1.3.4} {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii

A=Yes

Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

Target 15

Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention. {3.2.}

15.1 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

15.1 Additional information

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

> Proposed Ramsar Regional Initiative for Oceania

15.2 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

Target 16

Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness {4.1}

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

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

Please select only one per square.

a) At the national level	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
b) Sub national level	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned

c) Catchment/basin level	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
d) Local/site level	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned

16.2a How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

a) at Ramsar Sites

E=Exact Number (centres)

> 1

16.2b How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

b) at other wetlands

X=Unknown

16.2 Additional information

If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks

> PNG is currently seeking advice on the way forward establishing Centres.

16.3 Does the Contracting Party {4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

Please select only one per square.

a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned

16.3 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved

> It is one of their prime responsibility of the local stakeholders in assisting communities for livelihood programs, fisheries (fish ponds) DPI (substitute for proteins).

16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v

B=No

16.5 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v

B=No

16.6 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), b) or c) below? {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi:

Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Site managers	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
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b) other MEA national focal points	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
c) other ministries, departments and agencies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned

16.7 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 COP12? {4.1.8}

A=Yes

16.7 Additional information

> Other partners have had the opportunity to host on our behalf World Wetland Day.

16.8 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP12 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}

B=No

16.8 Additional information

If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this

> Hosting of World Wetland Days depend on funding, it is through this short falls that partners comes in for support.

Target 17

Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available. {4.2.}

17.1a Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2015, 2016 and 2017? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i

A=Yes

17.2 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

17.3 [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

Z=Not Applicable

17.4 [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

Z=Not Applicable

17.5 [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

17.6 Has any financial support been provided by your country to the implementation of the Strategic Plan?

A=Yes

Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

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

A=Yes

18.1 Additional information

> Not a National Ramsar /Wetland Committee but sections within CEPA that the MEA is housed and that each

delegated sections are invited to do presentations for progressive updates.

18.2 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)? {3.1.2} {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv

C=Partially

18.2 Additional information

> Require Ramsar guidance to effective collaboration between other National Focal Points of the MEAs.

18.3 Has your country received assistance from one or more UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO) or the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.ii.

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

X=Unknown

18.4 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

18.5 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

C=Partially

18.5 Additional information

> Ramsar is quite a new concept to most of PNG communities, require guidance from Ramsar to advise on how CEPA (Gov)/CEPA focal Point and the CEPA NGO focal Point be fully utilized to disseminate information on the Ramsar Convention.

18.6 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

18.6 Additional Information

> The update for the RIS is yet to be submitted to the Secretariat.

18.7 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

A=Yes

18.7 Additional information

> The progress is rather slow, and plan activities to kick start the bilateral negotiation process is in good progress.

18.8 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

A=Yes

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

B=No

Target 19

Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.

19.1 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

19.2 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes?

A=Yes

19.2 Additional information

If you answer yes to the above please provide information on which mechanisms and materials

> This is included in school curriculum both at the Primary, secondary and the tertiary education level (Primary - PNG river system, secondary - Making a living (MAL) - Managing water and at the tertiary level as Resource management on PNG wetland Area.

19.3a How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP12?

{4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv

a) at Ramsar Sites

X=Unknown

19.3b How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP12?

{4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv

b) at other wetlands

X=Unknown

19.3 Additional information

including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training

> It might have been that invitations were extended to Contracting Parties and PNG might have not responded. PNG (CEPA) may have not been informed due to number of transitions. PNG CEPA is currently in its final transitional phase (from Dept. of Environ. Conservation (DEC) to Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA)).

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

B=No

19.4 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring

> No, used the RISs, assessment reports from partners on the ground.

