



RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

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Section 1: Institutional Information

Important note: The responses below will be considered by the Convention on Wetlands Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points. All individuals listed below agree that the submitted information will be used to update the information in the Secretariat's contact database and will be published on the public website here Contacts on website.

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 COP15 National Report. It can be attached to this question using the "Manage documents" function (blue symbol below)

Link to sample National Report Submission Letter: <https://www.ramsar.org/document/national-reports-cop15-sample-letter>

>>> Armenia

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

11704 Env_minister_ramsar.pdf - Letter of the Minister Simidyan

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

>>> Ministry of Environment

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

>>> Hakob Simidyan, Minister

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Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title

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Designated Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) National Focal Point

Name and title

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Name of organisation

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Designated Government Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Programme National Focal Point

Name and title

>>> PhD Karen Aghababyan

Name of organisation

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Designated Non-Governmental Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Programme National Focal Point

Name and title

>>> PhD Susanna Hakobyan

Name of organisation

>>> Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology, National Academy of Sciences

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Designated National Focal Point on Strengthening the Convention on Wetland's Connections through Youth

Name and title

>>> Ani Hakobyan, Press Secretary of the Minister

Name of organization

>>> Ministry of Environment

Mailing address

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Phone

>>> +37411818555/ 5001

Email

>>> press@env.am

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Page of Ani Hakobyan](#)

Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP14 reporting)

A. What have been the five main achievements of the implementation of the Convention since COP14?

1)

>>> Lake Sevan Basin, Gegharkunik Region (Ramsar site)

EU4Sevan project

The project is dedicated to improving the environmental protection of Lake Sevan. The lake's health directly impacts regional environmental quality and Armenia's economic prospects.

The UNDP focuses on enhancing the governance of the Lake Sevan ecosystem through several key actions:

Improving management frameworks,

Strengthening the policy and regulatory framework,

Enabling the long-term development planning.

Supporting ecosystem rehabilitation.

Funding and Partnerships:

The project is co-funded by the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and is implemented under a Multi-Partner Contribution Agreement by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is part of the EU Action "EU4Energy Efficiency and Environment" and the BMZ-funded programme "Management of Natural Resources and Safeguarding of Ecosystem Services for Sustainable Rural Development in the South Caucasus" (ECOserve).

Beneficiaries:

The primary beneficiaries are the residents of the Gegharkunik region.

Alignment with Development Strategies:

The project aligns with the Armenia Development Strategy 2014-2025 (ADS), which includes measures to reduce water resource pollution. It also supports the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 1 (No Poverty), addressing the interconnections among these goals.

Some results so far:

Management Framework Enhancement: Developed a comprehensive Sevan National Park Management Plan, which includes detailed programs, thematic maps, and proposals for zoning and boundary adjustments.

Policy and Institutional Updates:

Completion of a thorough review of existing policies, legal, and institutional frameworks governing Lake Sevan. This has led to the creation of a long-term national vision for Lake Sevan 2050 and a budgeted strategy, including the action plan for ecosystem restoration.

Long-Term Planning:

Conducted an in-depth assessment of the environmental and socio-economic impacts of rising water levels through hydrological and water quality modeling. This includes the development of a roadmap to tackle the water level increase effectively. The potential for water reuse incentives in Armenia to support effective water management has been assessed. The book "Lake Sevan Yesterday, Today..." by R. H. Hovhannissian was digitized by making over 50 years of research available to today's decision-makers and researchers.

Ecosystem Rehabilitation Support:

Improved capacities to manage the cleaning of Lake Sevan's flooded forest and surrounding swamp area, provided machinery and training, and developed technical specifications for further rehabilitation efforts.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Information on Eu4Sevan project](#)

2)

>>> Lake Sevan and coastal zone, the territory of Sevan National Park

During the reporting period:

- In total, 74.45 ha of land was deforested in the flooded and flood-prone areas around Lake Sevan.

- Planting of 30,000 poplar, ash and yellow acacia saplings was carried out on an area of 12.85 hectares.

- In total, 540 m of stone fences and 750 m² of constructions left under water in flood-prone areas around Lake Sevan were dismantled.

- In total of 1,033,178 fry of endangered endemic Sevan trout (*Salmo ischchan*) were reared and released into the lake, of which gegharkuni (*Salmo ischchan gegarkuni*) – 793,464 (2000 – 33 g, 130,132 – 11 g, 101,600 – 4 g and 163,000 – 1 g average weight), and summer ischchan (*Salmo ischchan aestivalis*) – 239,714 (104,357 – 10 g and 15,500 – 5 g average weight).

- Due to increased surveillance and efficient fisheries management, commercial whitefish stocks more than doubled from 300 to 679 tons.

3)

>>> The data on permissible quotas for waterfowl hunting of the Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia show their relatively stable state:

Species Year 2021 2022 2023 2024

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 30000 28500 30000 25000

Eurasian teal (*Anas crecca*) 2500 5000 5600 5500

Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*) 20000 17750 - -

Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*) 20000 2150 - -

Eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*) 30000 26450 30000 35000

Common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) 11000 10300 11000 9000

Common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) 8000 4500 8000 4000

4)

>>> Restoration of the part of the Khor Virap Marsh Ramsar site, 50.2 ha, a candidate Emerald Site.

Implementing agency: BirdLinks Armenia NGO.

Financing: Caucasus Nature Fund under the Grant "Developing sustainable management of Khor Virap Sanctuary".

Before the intervention (Picture 1), in 2017–2019, 38 breeding bird species were recorded in the project area and its surroundings; in total, the number of the whole breeding bird community was 1330–3274 pairs. 31 migratory bird species were recorded in the area of Khor Virap and its surroundings. In total, the number of the whole migratory bird community 17,155–46,365 individuals.

During the works, a total of 1.61 ha of wetlands were restored in Khor Virap Sanctuary. The design of the wetlands was developed considering the nesting and foraging requirements of various breeding and migratory waterbird species.

After the intervention (Picture 2), 55 breeding bird species were recorded, the breeding bird fauna increased by 17 species. In total, the number of the whole breeding bird community was 1428–3443 breeding pairs. 61 migratory bird species were recorded in the area of Khor Virap and its surroundings, the number of the migrating species increased by 30 species, in total, the number of the whole migratory bird community 19,155–53,402 individuals.

As a result, the number of breeding bird species increased by 45% and the number of migratory species by 97%. Accordingly, the number of breeding bird pairs increased by 6% and the number of the whole migratory bird community by 14%.

For more, see: Aghababayan K, Grigoryan V (2024) First attempt of wetland restoration in Ararat Plain of Armenia and its influence on the waterbird fauna. *Wetlands Ecol Manage*. Springer Nature: 21 pp.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11273-024-10007-2>

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Khor_Virap_2.png](#) - Marsh after restoration

[Khor_Virap_1.png](#) - Marsh before restoration

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[First attempt of wetland restoration in Ararat Plain of Armenia and its influence on the waterbird fauna.](#)

5)

>>> The Fotowatio Renewable Ventures, a company responsible for construction and exploitation of the Masrik Photovoltaic Plant (FRV Masrik CJSC) in the territory of Lake Sevan Ramsar Site and economic zone of the Sevan National Park (Np). Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Sevan National Park SNCO (the "Beneficiary"), Foundation for Restoration of Sevan Trout Stock and Development for Aquaculture (the "Implementing Agency") and FRV Masrik CJSC (the "Sponsor") was signed on June 13, 2024. This MoU outlines the framework for and mutual understanding among the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia, the Implementing Agency and the Sponsor in connection with collaboration in the restoration of endemic fish species in Lake Sevan to combat eutrophication and thus, to ensure the adaptation of Lake Sevan ecosystem to climate change (the "Project").

Sevan Koghak (*Capoeta sevangi* de Filippi, 1865) has a keystone role in Lake Sevan ecosystem, being almost predominantly feeding detritus (dead organic matters). In this respect, the role of Sevan Koghak in the ecosystem of Lake Sevan is invaluable. Hence, increasing the stocks of Sevan Koghak will positively impact the ecosystem of Lake Sevan by mitigating the lake's eutrophication process. The role of Sevan Koghak will increase even more, as a natural adaptation factor, under the conditions of climate change (temperature increase).

Sevan Koghak is registered in the Red Book of Armenia (2010) as a vulnerable subspecies. However, currently its actual status is critical. The main cause of population decline is the destruction of spawning grounds, the introduction of new species, and illegal fishing.

Considering the keystone role of Sevan Koghak, it is necessary to rehabilitate its position in Lake Sevan ecosystem. For this purpose, it is important to resume the artificial reproduction of Sevan Koghak as long as necessary for the restoration of natural reproduction conditions.

This includes:

1. Collecting of Sevan Koghak individuals in Lake Sevan and its tributaries;
 2. Incubating and rearing of Sevan Koghak's larvae;
 3. Rearing of Sevan Koghak's fry in ground ponds;
 4. Keeping of mature Sevan Koghak's specimens until the next breeding season.
- Another agreement is signed on 22 July 2024 between the FRV Masrik CJSC and office of the administrative manager of Mets Masrik Village, which will allow village residents ship grazing in the territory of the Masrik Photovoltaic Plant each year from May to November. This will reduce significantly the overgrazing problems around the village..

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Mets Masrik Sheep Grazing Agreement (executed).pdf - Sheep Grazing Agreement

Donation agreement -payment receipt Masrik (1).pdf - payment receipt

memorandum Sevan NP FRV Ishkhan.pdf - Memorandum of Understanding between Sevan National Park SNCO (the "Beneficiary"), Foundation for Restoration of Sevan Trout Stock and Development for Aquaculture (the "Implementing Agency") and FRV Masrik CJSC (the "Sponsor")

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://frv.com/en/>

B. What have been the five main challenges in implementing the Convention since COP14?

- 1)
 - >>> Lake Sevan
 - The rate of lake level rise was negative (-0.35 m) due to unusual dry years;
 - Farther water quality improvement continues to stay under the threat;
 - Plans for renovation of existing water treatment stations face financial shortages.
- 2)
 - >>> Ararat artesian basin
 - Too slow is the recovery of the optimal level of aquafer showed that the measures undertaken are insufficient.
- 3)
 - >>> Unregulated water intake from rivers and poor regulation of water storage and intake in irrigation reservoirs.
- 4)
 - >>> Unsatisfactory use of water for irrigation and domestic need. Despite of some improvements, the losses are as high, as in previous triennial.
- 5)
 - >>> Currently all 3 endemic fish species, Sevan rout, Sevan barbell and Sevan khranulya are in critical conditions since they lost all fluvial spawning areas.

C. Please outline five priorities for implementing the Convention in your country during the coming triennium (2026-2028)

- 1)
 - >>> Lake Sevan
 - Increase of water level by at least 6 m in 2030, as stated in the 'Law on Approval of Annual and Comprehensive Programs of Measures for Restoration, Preservation, Reproduction and Use of Lake Sevan Ecosystem', is unrealistic (0.38 m per year on average during 2024-2030). However, raising the water level is of paramount importance in the environmental policy of the country.
 - Water quality improvement.
 - In spite of significant progress in regulation of fishery, the combat against poaching still remains an important issue
 - .Resume artificial reproduction of the Sevan Koghak (Capoeta sevangi de Filippi, 1865
- 2)
 - >>> Maintaining the aquafer of the Ararat artesian basin at an optimum level.
- 3)
 - >>> Reducing water losses in all areas of use - agriculture, industry and households.
- 4)

>>> Improvement of irrigation water supply through increasing control over:
- water intake from rivers, especially in Lake Sevan basin;
- irrigation water storage reservoirs, especially during the winter and during the irrigation period.

5)

>>> Wetlands are among the most critically threatened habitats of Armenia, which need monitoring of the status, patrolling to curb illegal activities, conservation in balance with local land use and livelihoods, and restoration/maintenance activities to withstand current threats and challenges. Monitoring, patrolling, conservation and restoration/maintenance of wetlands will contribute to the positive change of their status through the enforcement of habitat protection. Assessment/inventory of the current status of wetlands, especially in the Ararat, Gegharkunik, Lori, Shirak and Tavush provinces will contribute to the improvement of the status of wetlands by developing and initiating the integrated monitoring system, supporting the eco-patrol service, assessing the baseline status of indicator species and habitats, and developing technical guidance for habitat restoration and maintenance.

D. Does the Administrative Authority have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention Secretariat?

>>> Part of Armenian territory is still occupied by Azerbaijan, including the springs and upstream tributaries of Lake Sevan within the Sevan Ramsar Site and the economic zone of the Sevan National Park. We therefore call for the active involvement of the Ramsar Secretariat to support and engage in the conduct of a thorough assessment of the damage to the environment in Armenia, as this transboundary area is identified as one of the key biodiversity areas of the Caucasus ecoregion.

E. Does the Administrative Authority have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs) (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to be developed)?

>>> The IOPs play a leading role in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention. We would appreciate technical assistance and fund raising, sharing experiences on best wetland management and restoration practices, transboundary cooperation on scientific research and piloting of innovative financing models.

F. In accordance with paragraph 21 of Resolution XIII.18 on Gender and wetlands, please provide a short description about the balance between genders participating in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research.

>>> The balance between genders participating in wetland-related decisions is F:M=66:34 (on the example of the Ministry of Environment); between F:M=20:80 and F:M=70:30 during the public hearings; about F:M=50:50 in training activities programmes; F:M=67:33 in research (on the example of the Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology of the Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology, National Academy of Sciences). In the recently established Eco-Patrol Service of the Ministry of Environment the ratio in the top management is F:M=60:40 but women are absent in the field staff.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[The website of the Ecological Patrol Service](#)

G. On the basis of your indications above, list possible areas where change is necessary for the achievement of gender equality.

>>> Currently the possible area where the change is necessary for the achievement of gender equality is the field staff of the recently created ecological patrol service/

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[The website of the Ecological Patrol Service](#)

H. Please describe lessons learnt in the context of wetlands and gender equality work in your country.

>>> In general, the ratio of genders involved in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research is satisfactory, except in the area of enforcement of environmental legislation.

I. If possible, please list gender-related policies, strategies and action plans in place relevant to wetlands in your country.

>>> Armenia is a party to the Conventions on the Political Rights of Women and Concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value. The gender balance in Armenia is regulated by the Law on Ensuring Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and a number of Government decisions. Specific gender-related policies, strategies and action plans in place relevant to wetlands in Armenia aren't developed yet.

J. If applicable, identify examples of strategies and actions your country is implementing to support youth participation in the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan or in wetlands management

(Resolution XIV.12 on Strengthening Ramsar connections through youth, paragraph 21).

>>> Not applicable to date.

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

>>> Ministry of Environment (MoE)

Eco Patrol Service of the MoE

"Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center" SNCO

"Khosrov Forest" State Reserve" SNCO

"Lake Arpi" National Park SNCO

"Sevan" National Park" SNCO

Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology of the Scientific Center for Zoology and Hydroecology of Armenian Academy of Sciences

BirdLinks Armenia NGO

Section 3 - all goals: Indicator questions and further implementation information

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.

Section 3 - Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15]

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.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14]

1.1 Have any actions been taken since COP14 to integrate wetland protection, wise use and restoration, or wetland benefits, into other national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.1}

Please select only one per square.

a) National policy or strategy for wetland management	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Poverty eradication strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
e) Integrated coastal zone management plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
f) National forest management plan/strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
g) National policies or measures on agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
i) National policies on energy and mining	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
j) National policies on tourism	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
k) National policies on urban development	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
l) National policies on infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
m) National policies on industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
n) National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3}	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
o) National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
p) National policies on wastewater management and water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
q) National policies, strategies or plans on sanitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
r) National policies, strategies or plans on food security	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

Target 2

Water users 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.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 7, Sustainable Development Goal 6, Indicator 6.3.1]

2.1 Have the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands and the additional guidance on tools and methodologies been brought to the attention of national ministries and/or agencies at different levels of territorial organizations (Resolutions VIII.1, VIII.2)? {2.1}

☒ C=Partially

2.1 Additional Information

>>> According to the Law on Annual and integrated programs for restoration, conservation, reproduction and use of the Lake Sevan ecosystem (2001), the water level of the Lake Sevan should increase on 6m by 2030. As of January 1, 2024, the water level increase, compared with the historical minimum 1896.52 m above sea level, is 3.65 m.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center (2024) 2004, first quarter Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring Results Bulletin. [in Armenian] - Lake Sevan, pages 68-79

2.2 Have assessments of environmental flow been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands? {2.2}

☒ C=Partially

2.2 Additional Information

>>> Reflected in the Armenia's 4th National Communication on Climate Change

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia (2020) Armenia's 4th National Communication on Climate Change

2.3 Have the designation or management of Wetlands of International Importance ("Ramsar Sites") improved the sustainable use of water (e.g. reduced drainage, reduced use of pesticides, controlled pollution etc.) in your country?

☒ C=Partially

2.3 Additional Information

>>> In case of Lake Sevan only

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? {2.3}

☒ C=Partially

2.4 Additional Information

>>> For Lake Sevan

2.5 Have projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands been developed {2.4}

☒ A=Yes

2.5 Additional Information

>>> During 2019, a total of 1.61 ha of wetlands were restored in Khor Virap Sanctuary Ramsar Site. Before the intervention, in 2017–2019, 38 breeding bird species were recorded in the project area and its surroundings. After the intervention, during 2020–2021, 55 breeding bird species were recorded, the breeding bird fauna increased by 17 species. In total, the number of the whole breeding bird community increased from 1330–3274 to 1428–3443 breeding pairs.

Before the restoration, 31 migratory bird species were recorded in the area of Khor Virap and its surroundings. After the restoration, 61 migratory bird species were recorded, increasing the migratory bird fauna by 30 species. In total, the number of the whole migratory bird community increased from 17,155–46,365 to 19,155–53,402 individuals (Aghababyan, Grigoryan, 2024).

Implementing agency: BirdLinks Armenia NGO (Executive Director Karen Aghababyan)

Financing: Caucasus Nature Fund under the Grant "Developing sustainable management of Khor Virap Sanctuary".

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

First attempt of wetland restoration in Ararat Plain of Armenia and its influence on the waterbird fauna.

2.6 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? {2.8}

☒ D=Planned

2.6 Additional Information

>>> One case only, in frames of UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme funding a project on “Rehabilitation of agricultural lands through application of biological ponds for domestic wastewater treatment in Parakar community of Armavir region” was implemented during 2010-2012. After 5 years of successful operation, in 2017 the ownership of the community-owned biological pond in Parakar was transferred to the State Committee of Water Resources (by the Government decision of 2016). As a result of no maintenance performed since the actual transfer of ownership, the facility stopped operating. Recently the Government transferred the ownership back to the community and the issue of rehabilitating the system with different donors through the invention program is discussing.

Target 3

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 7, 10, 15, 16 and 18]

3.1 Has your country put in place policies, including incentives, guidelines or other instruments to encourage the private sector to apply the wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in activities and investments related to wetlands? {3.1}

☒ D=Planned

3.2 Has the private sector undertaken any activities or actions for the conservation, wise use, and management of (a) Ramsar Sites or (b) wetlands in general? {3.2}

Please select only one per square.

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

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

☒ C=Partially

3.3 Additional information

Please specify the types of incentive measures (loans, tax breaks, or others).

>>> - Restoration of Khor Virap Ramsar site

- Steps to strengthen regulation of fisheries in Lake Sevan

3.4 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which lead to degradation or loss of wetlands? {3.4}

☒ Z=Not Applicable

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.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6]

4.1 Does your country have a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {4.1}

☒ C=Partially

4.1 Additional information

>>> Based on scientific research, the Minister of Environment issued the order N 110-Ն of 2 April 2024, approving the list of invasive animal species, which contains 40 taxa, of which 11 are wetland species.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Mlinister_of_Environment_Order_110-N_20240402_invasive.pdf](#) - The list of invasive animal species [in Armenian]

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Arakelyan \(2024\) Invasive alien species of animals in Armenia. BioInvasions Records](#)

4.2 Has your country adopted any national policies, strategies, or guidelines on invasive species control and management that are relevant for wetlands? {4.2}

☒ C=En partie

4.2 Additional information

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Mlinister_of_Environment_Order_110-N_20240402_invasive.pdf](#) - Order 110 of the Minister of Environment on approval of the list of invasive - alien animal species [in Armenian, with names of animals also in English]

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Arakelyan et al.. \(2024\) Invasive alien species of animals in Armenia. BioInvasions Records 13\(2\): 293–303](#)

4.3. Has your country successfully controlled through management actions invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems? {4.3}

☒ E=# species

>>> 11

4.4 Has the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed? {4.5}

☒ C=Partially

Section 3 - Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17]

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.

15.1 Has your country been part of the development and implementation of a Ramsar Regional Initiative?? {15.1}

☒ B=No

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? {15.2}

☒ A=Yes

15.2 Additional information

If “yes”, please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s).

>>> In different years, 3 representatives from Armenia participated in training courses as lecturers and participants in the Ramsar Regional Centre – Central and West Asia (RRC-CWA)

Regional seminar 'Current issues of conservation and wise use of wetlands and wetland biodiversity in the European New Independent States'. This sub-regional project involved 50 participants from the six countries in the European region of the former USSR (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine)

Regional training course on wetland management for 20 participants from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine (Ramsar SGF 2001)

Target 16

Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 21].

16.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {16.1}

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

16.1 Additional information

If “yes” or “in progress” to one or more of the four categories above

>>> At Local/site level in villages surrounding Khor Virap Ramsar site, where wetland restoration activities are ongoing

16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) that focus on wetlands have been established? {16.2}

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ E=# centres

>>> 1

b) at other wetlands

☒ Y=Not Relevant

16.3 Does the Contracting Party {16.3}

Please select only one per square.

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

16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral national Ramsar/wetlands committee? {16.4}

☒ B=No

16.5 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a national Ramsar/wetlands committee? {16.5}

☒ B=No

16.6 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share the Convention’s implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and: {16.6}

Please select only one per square.

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

16.7 Has your country organized any Convention on Wetlands-branded World Wetlands Day events, whether led by government or NGOs, since COP14? {16.7}

☒ A=Yes

16.8 Did your country undertake any campaigns, programmes or projects to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife during the World Wetlands Days since COP14? {16.8}

☒ A=Yes

16.9 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {18.5}

☒ C=Partially

Target 17

Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the Convention's fourth Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

17.1 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency ("donor countries")] Since COP14, has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management efforts in other countries? {17.3}

☒ Z=Not Applicable

17.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency ("donor countries")] Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed the development of projects by the agency? {17.4}

☒ Z=Not Applicable

17.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance since COP14] Has your country received financial support specifically for national wetland conservation and management: {17.5}

Please select only one per square.

a) from development assistance agencies of another country?	<input type="checkbox"/> Z=Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) from non-national or multilateral development assistance agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/> Z=Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

17.3 Additional information

for example from which countries or agencies

>>> CNF (Caucasus Nature Fund)

17.4 Has any financial support from the national budget been provided by your country to facilitate the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands? {17.6}

☒ Z=Not Applicable

Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels

18.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the national Ramsar /wetland

committee? {18.1}

☒ A=Yes

18.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Convention on Wetland's Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {18.2}

☒ A=Yes

18.3 Has your country received assistance from any of the following UN or other global and regional bodies and agencies in implementing the Convention on Wetlands since COP14? {18.3}

a) UNEP	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) FAO	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) UNECE	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) UNFCCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Global Environment Facility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) UNDP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) UNESCO	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) World Health Organization	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) World Meteorological Organization	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) ITTO	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) The Convention's IOPs	<input type="checkbox"/>

18.4 Has your country established international network(s), such as twinning arrangements, to facilitate knowledge sharing and training related to wetlands that share common features? {18.4}

☒ D=Planned

18.4 Additional information

>>> with Georgia

18.5 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {18.6}

☒ D=Planned

18.5 Additional information

>>> with Georgia

18.6 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {18.7}

☒ C=Partially

18.7 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {18.8}

☒ A=Yes

18.7 Additional information

If "yes", please list which regional networks or initiatives

>>> Through scientific institutions and NGOs

Target 19

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20]

19.1 Has your country conducted any national needs assessment since COP14 to inform capacity building

planning to implement the Convention's Strategic Plan? {19.1}

☒ B=No

19.2 Does your country or institution implement capacity development strategies or actions for the Convention's Strategic Plan?

☒ C=Partially

19.3 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes (Resolution XIV.11)? {19.2}

☒ D=Planned

19.4 How many training events for wetland site managers have occurred since COP14? {19.3}

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ E=# opportunities

>>> 1

b) at other wetlands

☒ Y=Not Relevant

19.4 Additional information

>>> for Sevan NP

19.5 Have you (AA) used your previous National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {19.4}

☒ A=Yes

