



RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

Help desk

If you have any questions or problems, please contact Secretariat staff at nationalreports@ramsar.org. Use of this email address will facilitate a timely response from the Secretariat.

Link to online tutorials on how to access and use the ORS:

<https://www.ramsar.org/document/ramsar-online-reporting-system-tutorial>

Find previous reports here: <https://www.ramsar.org/search>

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

Please read the general guidance section before starting to complete the form.

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>

>>> Submission letter is attached

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Submission letter Ramsar Convention.pdf](#)

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

>>> Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

>>> H.E.Mukhtar Babayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Mailing address

>>> B.Aghayev str.100 (A), AZ1073, Baku, Azerbaijan

Telephone

>>> (+994 12) 5970168

Email

>>> int.cooperation@eco.gov.az, biomuxteliflik@gmail.com

Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title

>>> Ms.Solmaz Bayramova

Mailing address

>>> B.Aghayev str.100 (A), AZ1073, Baku, Azerbaijan

Telephone

>>> (+994 12) 5970168

Email

>>> solmaz.memmedova@eco.gov.az , solmaz.chingizqizi@gmail.com

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

Name and title

>>> N/A

Name of organisation

>>> N/A

Mailing address

>>> N/A

Telephone

>>> N/A

Email

>>> N/A

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

Name and title

>>> N/A

Name of organisation

>>> N/A

Mailing address

>>> N/A

Telephone

>>> N/A

Email

>>> N/A

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

Name and title

>>> N/A

Name of organisation

>>> N/A

Mailing address

>>> N/A

Telephone

>>> N/A

Email

>>> N/A

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

Name and title

>>> N/A

Name of organization

>>> N/A

Mailing address

>>> N/A

Phone

>>> N/A

Email

>>> N/A

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)

>>> During the last triennium Ramsar Convention has been actively implemented in the country by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

- Regular conservation and sustainable development measures and effective scientific-research-monitoring work is conducted in Aggol and Gizilaghaj National Parks (Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)).

- Wide complex monitoring work is conducted on existing wetland areas in different ecosystems of the country have been continued in the Azerbaijan Republic.

2)

>>> "Wetlands in montane areas: climate risks and solutions" High-level/Ministerial dialogue joint side event was held by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan and Convention on Wetlands in Azerbaijani Pavilion at COP28 -United Nations Climate Changes Conference in Dubai, UAE.

An event on the topic "Connection between climate and biodiversity: integrated solutions for a sustainable future" was held at the Azerbaijan Pavilion in the framework of COP29. Representatives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Biodiversity Center, the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Azerbaijan Office and other organizations participated in the discussions organized by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. Panel discussions covered the activities carried out in our country to reduce the negative impact of climate change on natural ecosystems, the work done in the areas of protection and restoration of forest ecosystems, establishment of new greenery, protection and restoration of plant and animal species, which are among the main priority areas. Best practices in climate change adaptation and mitigation were heard, strategies for the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems, which play a key role in reducing the impacts of climate change, and issues of mutual cooperation were discussed, and experiences and ideas were exchanged.

3)

>>> World Wetlands Day has been celebrated with the participation of relevant organization, the NGOs, local people, and students. NGOs demonstrate their activities related to wetland issues and local people, exhppeople, and students. NGOs demonstrate their activities related to wetland issues and local people, exhibite

their wetland products to the public on this events.

An event dedicated to the protection of the marine environment was held at the Seaside National Park on August 12 in connection with "Caspian Day". A film dedicated to "Gizilaghaj National Park", made with the support of IDEA Public Union, was shown at the event to promote the national park.

An event was held in the Gizilaghac National Park on the occasion of "World Bird Watching Day" and "World Animal Protection Day" with the staff of schools located in nearby villages, and the event participants were provided with detailed information about the tourist routes available in the National Park.

With the joint organization of IDEA Public Union and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, ceremonies of releasing fish into the water and wetland areas is regularly held within the framework of the "Rich Basins" project aimed at the protection and restoration of the bioresources of the internal water basins of Azerbaijan.

In 2022, 578,631 Acipenseridae, 3,812,600 Cypriniformes and 55,000 Salmoniformes fish fries were released into the Caspian Sea, Kura River and other inland water bodies. (Total: 4,446,231 units).

In 2023, 618,700 Acipenseridae, 8,323,720 Cypriniformes and 17,215 Salmoniformes fry were released into the Caspian Sea, Kura River and other inland water bodies (Total: 8,959,635 units).

During the 11 months of 2024, 710,196 Acipenseridae, 4,773,200 Cypriniformes, and 41,200 Salmoniformes fry were released into the Caspian Sea, the Kura River, and other inland water bodies (Total: 5,524,596).

4)

>>> The Republic of Azerbaijan introduced the COP29 Declaration on Water for Climate Action. COP29 Presidency, the Republic of Azerbaijan, is determined to craft a stronger water dimension within the global climate ambition.

To enable the implementation of these actions, the COP29 Declaration on Water for Climate Action launched the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action to serve as a COP-to-COP collaboration platform fostering continuity and coherence on water-related climate action, ensuring a consistent focus on water and its interplay with climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and desertification, focusing on actions at the international, regional, river and basin levels.

5)

>>> In connection with the implementation of the measures envisaged in the "I State Program on the Great Return to the Liberated Territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan", special protective and recovery measures and monitorings were realized in the liberated from Armenian occupation Garagol State Nature Reserve located in the Lachin district on November 23-25, 2023 with the participation of specialists from the Biological Diversity Protection Service under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, "AzeLab" LLC, and the Institute of Zoology of the Ministry of Science and Education. Garagol State Nature Reserve was established on October 17, 1987 in the Lachin region on an area of 240,000 hectares. Reserve has an alpine landscape complex, and is fed mainly by snow, rain and partly by spring waters. The purpose of the establishment of the reserve was to preserve the unique ecological system of the mountain lake and the natural complex surrounding the water basin.

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

1)

>>> It is very important to promote relations and fulfill the provisions of the conventions in cooperation with other countries.

2)

>>> Azerbaijan had faced serious obstacles in fulfilling its obligations due to the Armenian 30 year occupation. Garagol (Garagol State Nature Reserve) lake, situating in the border with Armenia, was occupied by Armenia 1993 and has been liberated by Azerbaijan in 2020. During the occupation the nature of the lake was destroyed completely. Regional cooperation was also restricted by the occupation of Azerbaijani territory by Armenia for more than 30 years.

In violation of fundamental norms and principles of international law, the armed forces of Armenia fired cluster missiles to Aghjabedi and Beylagan regions, consequently, causing heavy wildfires in Aghgol National Park --an Important Bird Area (IBA) that included in the list of Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance in 2001) During the occupation the environment of the lake was destroyed completely.

Later the another national park so called "pearl" of Azerbaijan – Goygol National Park exposed to another brutal shelling attack by Armenian military troops which led to heavy fires in the forest approximately covering 25 ha areas. The fertile layer of Park lands, rare and critically endangered plant and animal species which included in the Red Book of Azerbaijan and International Red List, their nesting zones were completely destroyed, its ecosystem balance was significantly impacted.

Currently, a number of works are being carried out to restore and revitalize these areas.

3)

>>> Financing support of activities in the field of wetlands conservation remained severely limited.

4)

>>> Lack of modern and effective tools for data collection.

5)

>>> The capacity building needs of policymakers and employees in the sphere of the protection wetlands.

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

1)

>>> To determine the potential wetland areas of the country and propose them to the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands. To prepare an appropriate form (RIS) for including of wetlands of republic into the Ramsar list and to present it to the Secretariat.

2)

>>> - As a result of durable development of country economy, to give prognosis about the results of activities which can be create danger for wetlands ecosystems, to raise the matter in front of relevant execution structures for eliminating of this problems in time;

-To perform constantly renewing of information on areas in which was included to Ramsar list.

-To establish internet site of National Committee with the aim to elucidate the ecological information system, information bank, the activity of the country on Convention;

-To prepare and perform different measures related with the improvement of ecological culture of local population inhabited around the Ramsar areas and busing with the activity causing the degradation of this areas.

3)

>>> To achieve holding of qualitative and complex ecological monitoring (National Wetlands Inventory) on wetlands. To perform assistance and etc. in the improvement of activity of special protected nature areas including water wetlands, management of these areas, development of ecotourism, conducting of scientific work in such areas.

4)

>>> To start the execution of legal procedures with the purpose to give special protection status to the nature areas which need special protection and mainly the areas where the wetland ecosystems prevails. To do relevant work in the direction of preparing of management plans of wetland areas with the aim to protect them.

5)

>>> Prepare project offers for directing of separated finance means to the solution of wetlands for supporting of conducting activities in protection direction of environment by international and local organizations.

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

>>> -Support of necessary scientific research measures for including international significant wetlands into Ramsar list.

-Promotion of rehabilitation measures of wetlands with some problems.

-Support of the development of regional collaborators, regional centers.

-Promotion of preparation and implementation of effective management plans of wetlands, also support of enlightenment measures of population directing to durable using of wetlands.

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)?

>>> N/A

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.

>>> Balance between the employees of the Biological Diversity Protection Service participating in the protection of biodiversity, development of specially protected nature areas, wetland-related issues, programmes and research is as follows: 28 men - 31 women.

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

>>> The balance between genders participating in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research is followed.

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

>>> Women, including play a crucial role in the provision, management, and safeguarding of wetlands. Realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women is essential to making progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 5 and all other goals.

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

>>> In the Republic of Azerbaijan, women are closely involved in the protection of various ecosystems, including wetlands and their biological diversity, and in the preparation of relevant legislation, State plans, and action plans.

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).

>>> Young employees and specialists in Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and other relevant organizations participate regularly in wetland-related decisions, programmes and researches.

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 Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
Ministry of Science and Education;
"Azersu" Open Joint Stock Company.

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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
e) Integrated coastal zone management plan	<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
f) National forest management plan/strategies	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
k) National policies on urban development	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

1.1 Additional information

>>> Protection, rational use and restoration of wetland resources are elements of most of sectoral concepts, programs and action plans, specific goals and objectives of the conservation of wetlands have been included to the national plans and programs for the protection and conservation of biodiversity as Law on the

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

>>> "Action Plan for 2020-2022 on ensuring efficient use of water resources and Commission "On measures to ensure the efficient use of water resources" act in our country.

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

2.3 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?

☒ A=Yes

2.3 Additional Information

>>> Aggol and Gizilaghaj National Parks included in the list of the Wetlands of International Importance ("Ramsar Sites") are National Parks - specially protected nature areas and are being protected by Law on the "Specially protected nature areas and objects" of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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}

☒ A=Yes

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

>>> in 2017-2021 Ministry of Ecology and UNDP Azerbaijan implemented the project of "Increasing representation of effectively managed marine ecosystems in the protected area system (Azerbaijan)" project. The project was organized into two components and was implemented over a period of four years.

The first component of the project was focused on improving the management capacity of Gizilaghaj to address the external threats to, and pressures on, the conservation values of the reserve complex, including inter alia: pressures from building/agricultural encroachments; environmental impacts of livestock grazing/browsing; effects of illegal bird hunting; threats from inflows of pollutants; and effects of illegal fishing activities. The outputs under this component were specifically directed towards: (i) the expansion and consolidation of the Gizilaghaj NP, the Lesser Gizilaghaj State Nature Sanctuary and other adjacent unprotected areas of high biodiversity (and/or strategic) significance into a single new national park; (ii) the preparation of an integrated management plan for the newly established national park; (iii) demarcation of the boundary of, and renovation/construction of access control infrastructure in, the national park; and (iv) the procurement of critical equipment for improving the enforcement and compliance capacities of the national park staff.

The second component of the project was focused on: (i) creating the enabling conditions for increasing, diversifying and stabilising the financial flows to all coastal and marine protected areas; and (ii) developing and implementing a long term monitoring system to ensure that the integrity of ecosystems are not pushed over critical thresholds in the commercialization of, and natural resource use in, marine and coastal protected areas. The outputs under this component were specifically directed towards: (i) the preparation of a sustainable financing plan for the network of coastal and marine protected areas; (ii) strengthening the capacities of the Biological Diversity Protection Service to pilot priority activities identified in the financing plan; and (iii) the design and implementation of a long-term monitoring system to track the health of ecosystems in coastal and marine protected areas.

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

☒ C=Partially

2.6 Additional Information

>>> Mostly in the coastal lines and settlements around inland water, local municipalities widely use wastewater technology.

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}

☒ A=Yes

3.1 Additional Information

Please specify if it was applied for policy formulation or in implementation of good practice.

>>> According to the national legislation private individuals and legal entities cannot get water bodies in private property, but they can rent some, small in size, ponds and lakes and carry within them the activities under the national legislation and international requirements. However, there are violations of the law by the private land users on lands for estates and other activities along rivers and lakes (unauthorized destruction of floodplain areas or their deepening, etc.).

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 type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Wetlands in general	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

3.2 Additional information

>>> The private sector takes part more and more actively in conservation measures primarily through financial support for cleaning areas around wetlands from waste, through the construction of recreational zones and understand the meaning of wetland conservation.

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

☒ A=Yes

3.3 Additional information

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

>>> Most of wetlands are preserved as specially protected nature areas.

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

☒ A=Yes

3.4 Additional Information

Please specify the actions that have been taken to remove perverse incentive measures (e.g. removal of subsidies for agricultural expansion) and provide the source links or upload the source documents here.

>>> According to the Administrative Offences Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan approved by the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 96-VQ dated December 29, 2015, Violation of water body protection rules, as well as,

Violation of the rules for the protection of water bodies, namely:

- operation of enterprises, utilities and other facilities without facilities and equipment to prevent pollution, littering of water bodies and harmful effects of water;
- damage to water management facilities and equipment, failure to comply with the rules for their operation;
- failure to comply with the requirements established in the Water Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding water protection zones and coastal protection strips;
- violation of the regime of specially protected water bodies;
- failure to comply with the rules for state monitoring of water bodies, state accounting of waters, and conducting a state water cadaster;
- causing water pollution, water erosion of soils and other harmful situations by violating the regime for the protection of water bodies in water catchment areas;
- For violation of the rules and technology of drilling wells for water extraction or drilling wells for water extraction without the necessary permit - individuals are fined in the amount of six hundred to one thousand manats, officials in the amount of two thousand five hundred to four thousand manats, legal entities in the amount of seven thousand five hundred to ten thousand manats.

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}

☒ A=Yes

4.1 Additional information

>>> Here are several species that are considered to be invasive in Azerbaijan. One of the most notable is the comb jelly (*Mnemiopsis leidyi*) - an introduced species that invaded the Caspian Sea through the Volga Don channel. Its population has now multiplied to the extent that the biomass of the population has exceeded the general productive biomass of the sea. It feeds on animal plankton, including the planktonic larvae of fish, and as such, is capable of seriously undermining economically and biologically important fish (e.g. sturgeon) and mammal (e.g. Caspian Seal) populations. In 2020, a new species of zooplankton-eating comb jellies, the *Beroe ovata*, a natural enemy of *Mnemiopsis leidyi*, appeared in the Caspian Sea.

Invasive plant species include the widely distributed common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), buffalo bur nightshade (*Solanum rostratum*) and the Russian knapweed (*Acrotilion repens*).

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

>>> Special control of alien species within the wetlands is not implemented primarily through the organizational difficulties and little financial resources.

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources through policy tools control and manage situations on invasive species.

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

☒ X=Unknown

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

☒ C=Partially

Section 3 - Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

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 6, 11, 13, 14, 15]

Target 5

The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective planning and integrated management

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 3 and 5]

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? {5.1}

☒ A=Yes

5.1 Additional information

>>> Biological Diversity Protection Service under MENR takes necessary measures for further designation of Ramsar Sites.

5.2 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {5.3}

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 2

5.3 How many of the Ramsar Sites are actively implementing their management plan? {5.4}

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 2

5.4 How many Ramsar Sites are implementing management actions outside of formal management plans? {5.5}

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 2

5.5 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)? {5.6}

If "yes", please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

If "partially", please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

If "planned", please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

☒ A=Yes

>>> 2

5.6 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {5.7}

☒ X=Unknown

5.7 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared (see Resolution X.15)?

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 2

5.7 Additional information

For example give the name and official number of the Site or Sites.

>>> Every year, scientific research is conducted in Ramsar sites, and information about these studies is sent to the Biological Diversity Protection Service.

5.8 Resolution VI.13 urges Parties to give priority to providing the Secretariat with maps and completed Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) for all Sites designated for the Ramsar List, and to revise this data at least every six years. If your country has not updated its RIS as required, describe the challenges in updating RIS, particularly descriptions of ecological character.

>>> N/A

Target 7

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 3, 4 and 10]

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? {7.1}

☒ A=Yes

7.1 Additional information

If "Yes", please provide the source links or upload the source documents here describing the mechanisms established

>>> Both Ramsar sites in Azerbaijan are protected areas. So in this regard The Ministry has an effective control mechanism to monitor all negative aspects in this sites.

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? {7.2}

☒ O=No Negative Change

Section 3 - Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

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, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 21]

8.1 Does your country have a National Wetland Inventory (NWI)? {8.1}

☒ C=In Progress

8.1 Additional information

For example, if “in progress” or “planned”, by when will it be completed?

>>> Proposals were prepared together with relevant institutions and submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan regarding the improvement of the ecological condition of Lakes Boyukshor and Zyk. Work has begun on the implementation of the project under the contract signed with the Witteveen+Bos company on August 19, 2024, in order to evaluate and improve the feasibility study and design estimate documents prepared for the restoration of Lake Zyk. A project for the establishment of new green areas and a drip irrigation system around Lake Zyk has been prepared and agreed with relevant government agencies. The aim of the project is to implement ecological restoration processes in Lake Zyk and the surrounding areas and create new green areas.

- Under the second phase of the Boyukshor Lake restoration project, it is planned to implement rehabilitation measures on an area of 518 hectares (460 ha of lake and 58 ha of land), improve the surroundings of the lake, and create greenery.

- Joint monitoring was conducted by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources with the participation of local representatives of the Shirvan City Executive Power and the Azerbaijan State Water Resources Agency to assess the current situation in Lake Hajigabul and its surrounding areas.

- Ecological monitoring was conducted in and around Ganly Lake, samples were taken from streams directed to the lake, and laboratory analyses were conducted.

- Monitorings were conducted around Dashagil Lake in the Ashagi Guzdek settlement of Absheron region, Shor Lake in the Fatmayi village, Mammadli Lake, Mirzeladi and Siyanshor lakes in the Novkhani settlement, Imran Lake in the Masazir settlement, Saray Lake in the Saray settlement, Jeyranbatan reservoir, and Saray Lake in the Gurd Deresi area of Sumgayit city.

- At the same time, an expedition to study of aquatic bioresources were conducted in the Shah Dili, Bandovan and Kurağzi areas of the South Caspian on 16 September -20 September 2024 by the Institute of Zoology of the Ministry of Science and Education. The Institute of Zoology of the Ministry of Science and Education conducted monitoring in the coastal waters of the Gizilaghaj aquatorium and Kurağzi area of the South Caspian and identified natural breeding sites for Caspian salmon (*Salmo caspius*) and Kura sturgeon (*Acipenser persicus*).

8.2 If your country has an NWI, has it been updated in the last decade [2014-2024]? {8.2}

☒ C1=Partially

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ X=Unknown

8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information publicly available? {8.4}

☒ A=Yes

8.4 Additional information

For example if “partially” or “planned” by when will the data/information be made public?

>>> Yearly press releases, press conferences, slide presentations and special reports on wetlands conservation to the World Wetlands Day on 2 February are prepared in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan. Regional (provincial) authorities are involved into this process. Regional departments of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan and protected areas authorities are responsible bodies for Ramsar Sites conservation. Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan and its regional departments are obligatory to give all

information according Aarhus Convention on environmental condition in the country including wetlands to different requests of NGOs, local communities, separate persons, etc.

8.5 Please explain how the NWI data/information is maintained if at all? {8.3}

>>> NWI data/information is maintained in relevant State and scientific organizations.

8.6 Based on the information in NWI, if available, please provide the total area in square kilometres (km²) for the extent of wetlands (according to the Convention on Wetland's definition) for the year of available data and provide the relevant disaggregated information in the box below. This information will also be used to report on SDG 6, Target 6.6, Indicator 6.6.1, for which the Convention is a co-custodian. {8.6}

☒ X=Unknown

8.6 According to the Convention's definition and classification of wetlands, the disaggregated information on wetland extent is as follows

Note: The minimum information that should be provided is the total area of wetlands for each of the three major categories; "marine/coastal", "inland" and "human-made".

If the data on inventories are partial or not complete, use the available information to fill in the form, specifying if it is partial or not complete.

Guidance on information on national wetland extent can be consulted at: <https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidance-on-information-on-national-wetland-extent>.

>>> N/A

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km ²)
A -- Permanent shallow marine waters	no information
B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds	no information
C -- Coral reefs	no information
D -- Rocky marine shores	no information
E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores	no information
F -- Estuarine waters	no information
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	no information
Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs	not applicable
H -- Intertidal marshes	not applicable
I -- Intertidal forested wetlands	no information
J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons	no information
K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons	no information
Zk(a) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	no information

8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km ²)
L -- Permanent inland deltas	75,2 km ²

M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls	no information
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks	no information
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes	545 km2
P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes	34 km2
Q -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes	no information
R -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats	no information
Sp -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	no information
Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	no information
Tp -- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools	620 km2
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils	34 km2
U -- Non-forested peatlands	no information
Va -- Alpine wetlands	no information
Vt -- Tundra wetlands	no information
W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands	no information
Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	no information
Xp -- Forested peatlands	no information
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.	no information
Zg -- Geothermal wetlands	no information
Zk(b) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	no information

8.6 Human-made wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
1 -- Aquaculture ponds.	no information
2 -- Ponds	no information
3 -- Irrigated land	no information
4 -- Seasonally flooded agricultural land	no information

5 -- Salt exploitation sites	no information
6 -- Water storage areas	no information
7 -- Excavations	no information
8 -- Wastewater treatment areas	no information
9 -- Canals and drainage channels, ditches	no information
Zk(c) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	no information

8.7 How has the ecological character of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since COP14 ? {8.5}

Ecological character is the combination of the ecosystem components, processes and benefits/services that characterize the wetland at a given point in time.

Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Sites	<input type="checkbox"/> P=Status improved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O=No change <input type="checkbox"/> N=Status deteriorated
b) All wetlands in your country	<input type="checkbox"/> P=Status improved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O=No change <input type="checkbox"/> N=Status deteriorated

8.7 Additional Information

>>> All Ramsar sites in Azerbaijan are conserved as protected areas (National Park and Strict Nature Reserve). The ecological conditions of wetlands now are the same or better than in the previous triennium.

8.8 On a scale of **1-5** rate the change in the ecological character of wetlands in your country, overall, since last COP

Please select only one per square.

a) Marine/coastal	<input type="checkbox"/> 5=major improvement <input type="checkbox"/> 4=improvement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3=no change <input type="checkbox"/> 2=deterioration <input type="checkbox"/> 1=major deterioration
b) Inland	<input type="checkbox"/> 5=major improvement <input type="checkbox"/> 4=improvement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3=no change <input type="checkbox"/> 2=deterioration <input type="checkbox"/> 1=major deterioration
c) Human-made	<input type="checkbox"/> 5=major improvement <input type="checkbox"/> 4=improvement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3=no change <input type="checkbox"/> 2=deterioration <input type="checkbox"/> 1=major deterioration

8.9 What are your main needs in developing or updating an NWI to suport SDG Indicator 6.6.1 reporting for tracking global wetland status and trends? Please select below. {8.7}

	Yes
a) Access to data and data acquisition standards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Wetland delineation methods and approaches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Habitat classifications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

d) Standardization in data interpretation methods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Relevant skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Data collection and mapping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Collaboration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Others	<input type="checkbox"/>

8.10 Please select from the list below the main needs of your country in using NWI results to implement COP mandates, e.g. conservation and wise use of all wetlands (Resolutions X.2, XIII.12, XIII.13, XIII.14, XIII.16, XIV.17 and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)) to achieve sustainable development.

	Yes
a) Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Relevant skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Data systems and management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Application of NWI information for decision making (climate, biodiversity and sectoral planning/reporting)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Data interpretation and communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Collaboration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Others	<input type="checkbox"/>

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.}.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 9, 10 and 15].

9.1 Is a national wetland policy (or equivalent instrument) that promotes the wise use of wetlands in place? {9.1}

☒ A=Yes

9.1 Additional information

>>> Water code of the Republic of Azerbaijan' has been confirmed by the December 26, 1997 dated, 418-IQ numbered Law on 'About the confirmation of Water Code of the Azerbaijan' of the Prezident of Azerbaijan

9.2 Since COP14 have any amendments to existing legislation or policies been made to reflect commitments under the Convention on Wetlands? {9.2}

☒ B=No

9.3 Do your country's water governance and management systems recognize wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {9.3}

☒ B=No

9.4 Have communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)?

{9.4}

☒ A=Yes

9.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {9.5}

☒ A=Yes

9.6 Has your country included wetland actions in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other related national policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation?

☒ A=Yes

9.6 Additional Information

>>> Water resources of Azerbaijan is depleting due to the adverse effect of climate change. In the new NDC of Azerbaijan it was mentioned that creating a mechanism for assessing the environmental impact of the process of changing the purpose of land use, improving the management of pastures, improving the recovery of irrigated lands, preventing re-salinization and eliminating other problems in sustainable use of agricultural land and water resources is among the priorities of the country. As it is known these cross-cutting issues are highly related with the objective of the Ramsar Convention. Unsustainable land use and negative impact of climate change can destroy wetlands and result in drought and desertification. Climate change, water scarcity and drought require balanced manner additionally, correct land-use is one of the key element of wetland preservation.

9.7 Has your country formulated policies, plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {9.6}

☒ C=Partially

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

Please select only one per square.

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

9.9 Has your country made efforts to conserve and wisely use urban and peri-urban wetlands in line with Resolutions XI.11 and XIV.10? {9.8}

☒ D=Planned

9.10 Has your country made efforts to conserve small wetlands in line with Resolution XIII.21 and XIII.15? {9.9}

☒ A=Yes

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.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

10.1 Do you have national legislation or equivalent on indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels in wetland management, and/or Site management?

☒ C1= Partially

10.2 If the answer to question 10.1 is "yes", have the guiding principles for considering the cultural values of wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of Sites (Resolution VIII.19) been used?

☒ Y=Not relevant

10.3 Have case studies on the participation of indigenous people in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands been compiled? (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21) {10.1}

☒ C=In Preparation

10.4 Have the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands been applied? (Resolution VII. 8) {10.2}

☒ C=In preparation

10.5 Have traditional knowledge and management practices relevant to the wise use of wetlands been documented and their application encouraged {10.3}

☒ A=Yes

Target 11

Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. {1.4.}
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 11, 12 and 13]

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

☒ A=Yes

11.2 Since COP14, have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to food and water security and hence poverty alleviation been implemented? {11.2}

☒ X=Unknown

11.3 Since COP14 have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to other benefits for human well-being been implemented?

☒ C=Partially

11.4 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {11.3}

☒ A=Yes

11.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands in general? {11.4}

☒ A=Yes

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.
[Reference Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 2, 8 and 11]

12.1 Have national wetland restoration targets been established?

☒ A=Yes

12.2 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {12.1}

☒ A=Yes

12.3 Since COP14 have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been implemented? {12.2}

☒ A=Yes

12.3 If applicable provide information on the extent of restored wetland area and types since last COP, in square kilometres

	Restoration planned m2 or km2	Under restoration	Total Restored
Marine/Coastal	N/A	N/A	N/A
Inland	N/A	N/A	N/A
Human-made	N/A	N/A	N/A

12.4 Have the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.1) and Resolution XII.11 on Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention been implemented?

{12.3}

☒ C=Partially

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.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10 and 14]

13.1 Have actions been taken to enhance sustainability of wetlands when they are affected by key sectors including

Please select only one per square.

a) Energy	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Mining	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
d) Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
e) Urban development	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
f) Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
g) Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
h) Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
i) Aquaculture	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
j) Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

13.1 Additional Information

>>> Environmental Expertise Agency of MENR inspects all programs and projects, that potentially can influence on environment, including wetlands.

13.2 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact wetlands? {13.1}

☒ A=Yes

13.3 Is there a legal requirement in your country to conduct environmental impact assessments for development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) from key sectors (e.g., water, energy, mining and agriculture) that may impact wetlands? {13.2}

☒ A=Yes

13.3 Additional information

>>> Environmental Expertise Agency of MENR inspects all programs and projects, that potentially can influence on environment, including wetlands in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Environmental Impact Assessment", the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the Animal World", the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Waste", the Law on the "Specially protected nature areas and objects", the Law

on the Environment protection" and etc.

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}

☒ D=Planned

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}

☒ D=Planned

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

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

>>> 2

b) at other wetlands

☒ E=# centres

>>> 9

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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

16.3 Additional information

>>> The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources involve NGO s and local community to the desision making process through Aarhus Public Ecology Information Center and Public Council.

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

☒ A=Yes

16.4 Additional information

>>> The Committee coordinates the activities in the frame of designating new Ramsar sites, implementing the provisions of the Convention in our country, and realizing relevant events in Ramsar sites.

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.

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

16.7 Additional information

>>> World Wetlands Day has been celebrated with the participation of relevant organization, the NGOs, local people, and students. NGOs demonstrate their activities related to wetland issues and local people, exhibite their wetland products to the public on this events.

An event dedicated to the protection ot the marine environment was held at the Seaside National Park on August 12 in connection with "Caspian Day". A film dedicated to "Gyzylaghac National Park", made with the support of IDEA Public Union, was shown at the event to promote the national park.

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}

☒ A=Yes

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

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}

☒ A=Yes

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

18.1 Additional information

>>> CBD and IPBES focal points participate in the national Ramsar /wetland committee.

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 Additional information

For example describe the support and indicate the amount of funding.

>>> No

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}

☒ B=No

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

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

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}

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ A=Yes

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ E=# opportunities

>>> 97

b) at other wetlands

☒ E=# Opportunities

>>> 114

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

☒ A=Yes

Section 4. Optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that has developed national targets to provide information on those

Goal 1

Target 1: Wetland benefits

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]

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Resourcing

☒ A=Good

Target 2: Water Use

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

Target 2: Water Use - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 2: Water Use - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 3: Public and private sectors

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]

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Priority

☒ B=Medium

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 4: Invasive alien species

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]

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Priority

☒ B=Medium

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Goal 2

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites

The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective, planning and integrated management. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 3, 4 and 5]

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Resourcing

☒ A=Good

Target 7: Sites at risk

Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 3, 4, and 10]

Target 7: Sites at risk - Priority

☒ B=Medium

Target 7: Sites at risk - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Goal 3

Target 8: National wetland inventories

National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 21]

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Priority

☒ B=Medium

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 9: Wise Use

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. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 9, 10 and 15]

Target 9: Wise Use - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 9: Wise Use - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge

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. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Priority

☒ B=Medium

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 11: Wetland functions

Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 2, 12 and 13]

Target 11: Wetland functions - Priority

☒ B=Medium

Target 11: Wetland functions - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 12: Restoration

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.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 2, 8, and 11]

Target 12: Restoration - Priority

☒ B=Medium

Target 12: Restoration - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability

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. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10, 14 and 15]

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Priority

☒ B=Medium

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Goal 4

Target 15: Regional Initiatives

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.

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Priority

☒ C=Low

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use

Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 21]

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 17: Financial and other resources

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]

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Priority

☒ C=Low

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 18: International cooperation

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.

Target 18: International cooperation - Priority

☒ C=Low

Target 18: International cooperation - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 19: Capacity Building

Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and its 4th Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20]

Target 19: Capacity Building - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 19: Capacity Building - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

