



## **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>

>>> Canada

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Canada - COP15 National Report Submission Letter .pdf

## Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

### Name of Administrative Authority

>>> Canadian Wildlife Service / Environment and Climate Change Canada

### Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

>>> Marie-Josée Couture, Director General, Regional Operations Directorate, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada

### Mailing address

>>> 1550 d'Estimauville Ave, Québec QC G1J 0C3

### Telephone

>>> 418-802-6917

### Email

>>> marie-josée.couture@ec.gc.ca

## Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

### Name and title

>>> Dr. ZuZu Gadallah, Section Head, Wetlands Office, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada

### Mailing address

>>> 351 St. Joseph Blvd., Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

### Telephone

>>> 613-240-8439

### Email

>>> zuzu.gadallah@ec.gc.ca

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

### Name and title

>>> Dr. Line Rochefort, Full Professor, Researcher

### Name of organisation

>>> Laval University

### Mailing address

>>> 2480 Rue Hochelaga, Montréal, QC H2K 1J3

### Telephone

>>> 1-418-670-2731 ext. 402583

### Email

>>> line.rochefort@fsaa.ulaval.ca

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

### **Name and title**

>>> Kate Brennan – Program Manager/Advisor

### **Name of organization**

>>> Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada

### **Mailing address**

>>> 351 St. Joseph Blvd., Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

### **Email**

>>> kate.brennan@ec.gc.ca

## 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)

>>> Canada is a Party to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and played a leadership role in CBD work toward developing and adopting the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) at its 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15). Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada charts a path for how Canada will implement the KMGBF domestically. The Government of Canada engaged with provinces, territories, Indigenous groups and stakeholders to develop a Strategy that reflects the diversity of Canadian perspectives and issues. It establishes a shared vision to address biodiversity loss and builds on existing initiatives in all regions and sectors across the country. The Strategy recognizes wetlands as areas of high biodiversity value and that they can provide nature-based solutions through conservation, restoration, enhancement and improved management.

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

[Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada](#)

2)

>>> Implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) continues to be the cornerstone of wetland and waterfowl conservation in Canada, as an international partnership to restore, conserve and protect waterfowl and other wetland associated migratory birds. Work is organized through "joint ventures" which include partners from federal, provincial and local governments, conservation organizations, Indigenous groups, and landowners. Between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2024, NAWMP partners secured over 395,800 hectares and enhanced over 467,300 hectares of wetlands and associated uplands in Canada. This brings the total wetlands and associated uplands secured under the auspices of the Plan to over 9.8 million hectares since 1986. A recent area of focus is the development of the 2024 Update of the NAWMP Strategic Plan, which focuses on human elements as well as waterfowl and wetlands.

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

[North American Waterfowl Management Plan](#)

3)

>>> To support the implementation of natural climate solutions to climate change, the Government of Canada established the interdepartmental Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) Fund in 2020, a ten-year fund to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 5-7 megatons by 2030 and to restore 1.32 million hectares by 2031. The fund supports projects that conserve, restore, and enhance wetlands, peatlands, grasslands, and forests. It contributes to beneficial management practices to increase carbon sequestration and improve climate resiliency, with numerous co-benefits for biodiversity and human well-being. The programs also support Indigenous Peoples undertaking Indigenous-led, on-the-ground projects for ecological restoration, improved management and conservation of wetlands, grasslands, and forests, as well as capacity building to deliver on natural climate solutions.

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

[Natural Climate Solutions Fund](#)

4)

>>> To continue supporting ecosystem restoration and agri-environmental programs, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) launched the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) with federal, provincial and territorial governments in 2023. Programming under the fund is advancing the socio-economic and environmental sustainability of the sector, supporting it in producing quality food, fuel, and fiber efficiently and in a manner that limits environmental impacts, including on biodiversity. For example, the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) program under the Sustainable CAP program will help producers conserve and enhance the resiliency of agricultural landscapes by accelerating the adoption of beneficial management practices, such as maintaining and restoring wetlands and native grasslands. The Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (SAS), to be released in 2024, will support the agriculture sector's actions on climate change and other environmental priorities towards 2030 and 2050. The SAS is being developed in collaboration with a diversity of partners, to provide an integrated and coordinated approach to improving the agriculture sector's environmental performance and supporting its long-term vitality. The SAS will focus on five priority areas: climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and resilience, biodiversity, water, and soil health.

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

[Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership](#)

5)

>>> As part of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Oceans Protection Plan, the Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund (AERF) was launched in 2022 as a renewal and expansion of the Coastal Restoration Fund, to support aquatic restoration projects. The AERF supports projects that help to restore aquatic ecosystems and mitigate human impacts on Canadian coastal and marine environments. Activities funded under the AERF will help address threats contributing to biodiversity loss along Canada's coastlines and support co-benefits of aquatic restoration activities (e.g., nature-based solutions to climate change). Currently, the Fund is projected to restore 65,046 hectares of aquatic habitat and contribute to the survival or recovery of 223 threatened and endangered species by 2027. The AERF is committed to engaging Indigenous groups in the protection of Canada's coastal areas.

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

[Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund](#)

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

1)

>>> In Canada, jurisdiction for the environment is shared across multiple levels of government, including Indigenous governments, and the need to address a wide range of conservation priorities creates a need to coordinate and respect the mandates of the responsible organizations and jurisdictions. This also creates challenges in directing sufficient attention to wetland issues.

2)

>>> Communicating the importance of wetland conservation remains an ongoing challenge. A lack of widespread public understanding and support for the responsible use and management of wetlands, including their conservation and restoration, stems in part from a lack of awareness of the ecological and economic values they provide.

3)

>>> Despite progress on the Canadian National Wetlands Inventory and the first proof-of concept release, data to accurately assess the full extent of wetlands in Canada and especially in northern regions, remains limited.

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

[Canadian National Wetlands Inventory](#)

4)

>>> Limited financial resources and capacity among various organizations relating to the implementation of the Convention across Canada, creates challenges in mobilizing sufficient resources to fully achieve conservation objectives.

5)

>>> Environmental changes, such as climate shifts in temperature and precipitation, changing water levels, pollution, and the spread of invasive alien species remain a threat to wetlands in Canada.

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

1)

>>> The Government of Canada is committed to fostering and strengthening formalized, collaborative partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, to ensure that their leadership, perspectives, priorities, traditional knowledge and science, and cultural resources are valued and incorporated in decision-making and the conservation of wetlands domestically and at international fora. Conserving and sustainably using biodiversity must be done in respectful partnership with all Indigenous Peoples. The Government of Canada is committed to achieving reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through a renewed relationship based on the recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership as the foundation for transformative change.

2)

>>> The Canadian National Wetland Inventory (CNWI), initiated in 2022, will continue work to inventory Canada's vast area of wetlands. Over the past two years, much progress has been made on the development of the CNWI, including developing a classification schema, gathering wetlands inventory datasets, and reinforcing collaboration with Indigenous groups. The inventory currently covers approximately 40 million hectares and is already providing valuable baseline data for many other initiatives such as determining the

impacts of climate change, monitoring species movement, and determining status and trends of wetlands. Expanding the geographic coverage and data quality of the CNWI is a priority.

3)

>>> To accelerate progress on Canada's commitments under the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Sustainable Development Goals, Canada joined the Freshwater Challenge (FWC) at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28). The FWC is a country-led initiative that aims to support, integrate and accelerate the restoration of 300,000 km of degraded rivers and 350 million hectares of degraded wetlands by 2030, as well as conserve intact freshwater ecosystems. Canada will continue to support the FWC through our commitment to protection and restoration through domestic implementation of the KMGBF Framework, through the establishment of an independent Canada Water Agency as a federal focal point for fresh water, and through the implementation of a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan to restore and protect waterbodies of national significance. These complement existing initiatives, such as NAWMP as described in question A.2.

4)

>>> Canada is continuing to conserve wetlands as part of its commitment under Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada. Canada is seeking to conserve at least 30 percent of Canada's terrestrial (which includes land and freshwater) and 30 percent of Canada's oceans through a network of parks, protected and conserved areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2030. The Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (2021-2031) will continue to invest in wetland restoration to improve carbon sequestration in Canada.

5)

>>> Information sharing and engaging partners in a national dialogue for advancing Ramsar objectives and wetland conservation in Canada remains a priority.

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

>>> Publication of Canadian Ramsar Information Sheets would encourage Ramsar site managers to continue to update site information.

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)?

>>> No recommendations at this time.

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 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees rights equally to both sexes. The Government of Canada is committed to gender equity and has a dedicated Department for Women and Gender Equality. Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) advances equality through the inclusion of people of all genders, including women, in every aspect of Canada's social, economic, and political life. WAGE works to advance gender equality through its policies, programs, and by promoting an intersectional gendered lens. Gender-based analysis is now a prerequisite for most Government of Canada policy decisions and equality and inclusiveness are priorities. Wetland issues are no exception. Canada was pleased to support efforts to identify and celebrate the first cohort of "Women Changemakers in the World of Wetlands".

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

[Women and Gender Equality Canada](#)

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

>>> The Government of Canada is focused on continuing to advance gender equality, recognizing additional progress is needed. One potential area for improvement is support for Indigenous Organizations to engage women in wetland programming. The Métis Nation notes that women must be in positions of leadership, impacting decision-making regarding water and wetlands. Women have a sacred relationship with water and are often the knowledge keepers in Indigenous communities regarding water, with knowledge of ceremony, medicine and speaking for the water. The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples notes that in Indigenous practices, women are seen as the water carriers or protectors.

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

>>> While Canada undertakes consultations on gender issues and on wetland issues, there is limited engagement on the intersection of gender and wetlands. A key lesson from work to date is that it takes time to develop capacity and relationships to enable meaningful engagement.

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

>>> Please refer to the answer in F regarding Women and Gender Equality Canada's mandate.

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).

>>> Meaningful engagement with youth is a priority for the Government of Canada. It supports young people as equal partners in protecting nature and fighting climate change. Engaging youth to inform wetland management and policy occurs through programs such as:

- Canada includes youth delegates in the United Nations climate change and biodiversity conferences and has a Youth NFP for Ramsar.

- The Environment and Climate Change Canada Youth Council (ECCYC) provides non-partisan advice on environment and climate issues.

- Environment and Climate Change Canada provides training and job opportunities to youth, relating to environmental and climate issues. Information is available at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/get-involved/youth-engagement-environment-climate-change.html>.

- Youth engagement and education is encouraged and implemented at many Canadian Ramsar Sites. For example, the Kootenay-Columbia Discovery Society has been delivering education and wetland awareness programs for youth since 2018, on the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area. At the Grand Codroy Estuary youth are involved in site monitoring activities and have employment opportunities at the local wetland interpretation centre.

Within academia, wetland and peatland research programs engage undergraduate and graduate students. For example, the Can-Peat Network, run through the University of Waterloo, brings together peatland experts who are interested in advancing the understanding of the potential of peatlands as nature-based solutions and who support their responsible use and restoration. Furthermore, the Peatland Ecology Research Group, run through the University of Laval, brings together several research teams in Canada and internationally, to develop knowledge about peatlands and wetlands, and their ecological restoration.

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

>>> The following organizations were invited to provide input into the National Report:

International Organizations: International Joint Commission (Canadian section) \*; International Institute for Sustainable Development

Federal government: Agriculture and Agri-food Canada\*; Environment and Climate Change Canada\*; Global Affairs Canada\*; Natural Resources Canada\*; Parks Canada Agency\*; Statistics Canada; Canada Water Agency\*; Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada\*; Indigenous Services Canada\*; Fisheries and Oceans Canada\*

Provincial/territorial government: Alberta; British Columbia\*; Manitoba\*; New Brunswick\*; Newfoundland and Labrador; Northwest Territories; Nova Scotia; Nunavut\*; Ontario\*; Prince Edward Island; Quebec\*; Saskatchewan\*; Yukon\*

Crown Corporations: Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (Manitoba); Water Security Agency\* (Saskatchewan)

Municipal: Alberta Urban Municipalities Association; Association of Manitoba Municipalities; Association of Municipalities in Ontario; Association of Yukon Communities; Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities; Municipalities of Newfoundland and Labrador; Municipalities of Saskatchewan; Northwest Territories Association of Communities; Nunavut Association of Municipalities; Union of British Columbia Municipalities; Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick; Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities

Indigenous Organizations: Congress of Aboriginal Peoples\*; Inuit Circumpolar Council; Métis National Council\*; Native Women's Association of Canada; Women of the Métis Nation

Academia: Acadia University; Laval University\*; McGill University; Memorial University\*; Nunavut Research Institute; University of Alberta; University of New Brunswick\*; University of Saskatchewan; University of Waterloo\*; University of Manitoba\*

Private/industry: Canada's Oil and Gas Producers\*; Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers\*; Canadian Canola Growers' Association; Canadian Cattleman's Association\*; Canadian Federation of Agriculture; Canadian Institute of Planners; Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association; CropLife Canada; Forest Products Association of Canada; Mining Association of Canada\*; Our Living Waters\*; Pathways Alliance\*; Quebec Horticultural Peat Producers Association

Non-government: Alberta Conservation Association; ALUS Canada; Birds Canada\*; British Columbia Waterfowl Society\*; Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Women; Canadian Wetlands Roundtable\*; Canadian Wildlife Federation; Delta Waterfowl; Ducks Unlimited Canada\*; Environmental Defence Canada; Ivey Foundation; Nature Canada; Nature Conservancy of Canada\*; Nature United Canada; Nature Trust of British Columbia; Wildlife Habitat Canada; Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada; Trout Unlimited Canada\*

\*Organizations who responded to Environment and Climate Change Canada request for input to the National Report.

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

>>> a) National policy or strategy for wetland management

Wetland conservation is a shared federal, provincial, and territorial responsibility under the Canadian constitution. In some regions, Indigenous governments and municipalities also have responsibilities.

The 1991 Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation (FPWC) guides federal actions on wetland conservation in Canada. The goals of the FPWC are to: maintain wetland values and functions; no net loss of wetland functions; enhancement and rehabilitation of wetlands where there is loss and degradation; recognition of wetland values; securement of significant wetlands; recognition of sustainable management practices; and utilization of wetlands in a sustainable and productive manner. The FPWC also outlines strategies for the wise use and management of wetlands so that they can continue to provide a broad range of functions on a sustainable basis.

Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada, adopted in 2024, charts a path for how Canada will implement the KMGBF domestically. The Government of Canada engaged with provinces, territories, Indigenous groups and stakeholders to develop a Strategy that reflects the diversity of Canadian perspectives and issues. The 2030 Strategy lays out a set of targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and put nature on a path to recovery by 2050. The Strategy recognizes wetlands as areas of high biodiversity value and that they can provide nature-based solutions through conservation, restoration, enhancement and improved management.

At the provincial and territorial level, the Government of Ontario has continued the implementation of wetland and conservation-related actions, identified in provincial strategic documents including the Ontario's Environment Plan (released in 2018) and Ontario's Flooding Strategy (released in 2020). In 2023, Quebec updated and strengthened regulations relating to activities in wetlands, including under its Environment Quality Act. The Government of Yukon adopted a wetland stewardship policy in 2023 which addresses wetland protection, wetland management, and building knowledge around wetlands. Additionally, wetland issues have been considered and included in planning exercises (such as Regional Land Use Plans, Forestry Resources Management Plans, Yukon Water Strategy and Action Plan, and Fish and Wildlife Plans). Manitoba currently has twenty-eight integrated watershed management plans that incorporate wetland issues relating to biodiversity protection and wetland restoration. Further, in 2020, Manitoba published the "Boreal Wetlands Conservation Codes of Practice" that directs the construction of new resource or access roads in Manitoba's boreal region to avoid, minimize, and offset permanent impacts to wetlands.

#### b) Poverty eradication strategies

In August 2018, the Government of Canada released Opportunity for All – Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy. This strategy was developed to support the social and economic well-being of all Canadians and aligns with target 1.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Opportunity for All has concrete poverty reduction targets: a 20% reduction in poverty by 2020 and a 50% reduction in poverty by 2030, which will lead to the lowest poverty rate in Canada's history. While wetlands are not directly included in the strategy, there is a strong focus on clean water with specific initiatives that help to support this strategy. For example,

- On-Reserve Water and Wastewater Infrastructure: This investment supports continued efforts to eliminate long-term drinking water advisories and improve access to clean and safe drinking water on reserves. As of October 9, 2024, 146 long-term drinking water advisories have been lifted since November 2015, and 32 long-term drinking water advisories are in effect in 30 communities.

#### c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans

In Canada, the role and responsibility related to the management of water resources, including wetlands, are shared between the federal government, provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous governments, and municipal governments and local authorities.

In 2024, the Government of Canada created the Canada Water Agency (CWA) to work together with the provinces, territories, Indigenous communities, local authorities, scientists, and others to keep water safe, clean and well-managed.

Agriculture and AgriFood Canada (AAFC) supports water resource management by conducting and supporting research and development activities. This is guided by AAFC's Strategic Plan for Science which focuses on meeting the needs of producers and food processors, in collaboration with partners, tackling pressing global challenges, including the climate crisis, the emergence of new threats and global food security.

The following are provincial water management examples from the last triennium that recognize the importance of wetland ecosystem services in water resource management planning:

- British Columbia's Water Sustainability Regulation (2016) was amended in 2023 to include aquatic ecosystem restoration requirements resulting from unauthorized damages stream alterations as per the Energy Resource Activities Act.
- Manitoba's Water Management Strategy was published in 2022.
- In 2021, Ontario passed a new regulation (Ontario Regulation 686/21) under the Conservation Authorities Act, which defines the mandatory programs and services that conservation authorities deliver in Ontario. This regulation includes mandatory programs and services with regards to the development and implementation of a watershed-based resource management strategies, natural hazard management, drinking water source protection, among other watershed roles.
- In Saskatchewan, the Water Security Agency continues to implement the Agricultural Water Management Strategy, while also developing their Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy (AWSP). The AWSP will include a wetland retention requirement for agricultural drainage projects to help manage water quality and water quantity in Saskatchewan waterbodies by January 2025.

Cooperative intergovernmental agreements concerning water management include the Canada-Quebec Agreement on the St. Lawrence (2011 to 2026), the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (2021), the Canada-Manitoba Memorandum of Understanding Respecting Lake

Winnipeg and the Lake Winnipeg Basin (2021 to 2026).

d) Coastal and marine resource management plans

Canada has committed to conserving 30% of our marine and coastal areas by 2030. To help establish these areas and protect the species within them, Canada uses the Marine Protected Areas Protection Standard (2023) and the Guidance for recognizing marine Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (2022). As of 2024, Canada has protected about 15% of its coastal and marine territory through new and ongoing efforts under Canada's Oceans Protection Plan. For example, new efforts under the plan include developing a draft Ocean Noise Strategy (currently in public engagement stages until October 2024), supporting Indigenous-led marine conservation projects under the Project Finance for Permanence conservation initiative, supporting the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), and enabling the recovery and protection of aquatic species at risk through the 2023 renewal of the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR). Furthermore, the Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund (AERF) was launched in 2022 to support projects that help to restore aquatic ecosystems and mitigate human impacts on Canadian coastal and marine environments.

Canada also launched the development of a Blue Economy Strategy in 2021 through a public engagement process that informed a Blue Economy Regulatory Review Roadmap that was published in December 2022. The regulatory roadmap outlines 13 initiatives that will position Canada to seize emerging, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth opportunities while helping to regenerate ocean health and build resilience in Canada's coastal and rural communities.

e) Integrated coastal zone management plans

The Policy and Operational Framework for Integrated Management of Estuarine, Coastal and Marine Environments in Canada continues to apply for Canada's oceans community.

f) National forest management plan/strategies

In Canada, forest management planning is one of the primary tools used to ensure that publicly owned forests are sustainable. It is primarily a provincial and territorial responsibility and most harvesting in publicly owned forests is done by private forestry companies operating under a license or timber supply agreement with the relevant province or territory. Forest companies seeking to harvest timber on public lands must also develop forest management plans (<https://natural-resources.canada.ca/our-natural-resources/forests/sustainable-forest-management/forest-management-planning/17493>) that comply with strict forest laws and the principles of sustainable forest management. Companies must consult Indigenous communities, the public, industry and experts to ensure their plan includes steps to maintain ecosystem health and create economic opportunities for communities.

Additionally, well managed forests (both publicly and privately owned) certified by independent certification bodies (i.e., the Canadian Standards Association, Forest Stewardship Council, and Sustainable Forestry Initiative) have requirements regarding operations near waterbodies, including wetlands, in their standards. In 2022, 1.5 million km<sup>2</sup> of Canada's forest land was certified (State of Forests report).

g) National policies or measures on agriculture

Agriculture is a shared jurisdiction in Canada. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is continuing to build on a long history of working with the provinces and territories to develop agricultural policy frameworks. For example, AAFC launched the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) in 2023. Programming under the fund is advancing the socio-economic and environmental sustainability of the sector, supporting it in producing quality food, fuel, and fibre efficiently, and in a manner that limits environmental impacts, including on biodiversity. For example, the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) program under the Sustainable CAP program will help producers conserve and enhance the resiliency of agricultural landscapes by accelerating the adoption of beneficial management practices, such as maintaining and restoring wetlands and native grasslands. The Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (SAS), to be released in 2024, will support the agriculture sector's actions on climate change and other environmental priorities. The SAS is being developed in collaboration with a diversity of partners, to provide an integrated and coordinated approach. Focussing on five priority areas: climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and resilience, biodiversity, water, and soil health.

Examples of provincial and territorial agriculture management strategies that have been developed in the past triennium include:

- The Government of Yukon's new wetland stewardship policy launched in January 2023 will inform wetland management and protection considerations when considering new agricultural land applications.
- The Government of Saskatchewan Water Security Agency (WSA) continues to implement the Agricultural Water Management Strategy. Under this strategy and its empowering legislation, all drainage (existing and new) requires regulatory approval. WSA is also developing the Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy, which will include a wetland retention requirement for agricultural drainage projects.

h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD

Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada is Canada's most recent National Biodiversity Strategy. The Government of Canada engaged with provinces, territories, Indigenous groups and stakeholders to develop a Strategy that reflects the diversity of Canadian perspectives and issues. It establishes a shared vision to address biodiversity loss and builds on existing initiatives in all regions and sectors across the country. The Strategy recognizes wetlands as areas of high biodiversity value and that they can provide nature-based solutions that through conservation, restoration, enhancement and improved management. A Nature Accountability Bill is currently under consideration by the federal government, which

seeks to improve accountability and transparency for Canada's international commitments.

As an example at the provincial level, Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy contributes to national efforts and recognizes the importance of wetlands on the landscape. It includes activities to empower people, reduce threats, enhance resilience, improve knowledge, and transform investments across all sectors.

i) National policies on energy and mining

The primary responsibility for natural resource management falls to provincial and territorial governments, while Natural Resources Canada develops policies and programs that enhance the contribution of the natural resources sector to the economy and represent Canada at the international level. Legislation, policy, guidance and stewardship programs in support of mining and energy best practices are in place Canada to guide land-use decisions that impact wetlands.

Canada is committed to reducing its carbon emissions by 40 to 45 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieving net-zero by 2050. The 2022 Clean Fuel Regulations are an important part of Canada's climate plan to reduce emissions, accelerate the use of clean technologies and fuels, and support sustainable jobs in a diversified economy.

The Mining Association of Canada's (MAC) initiative Towards Sustainable Mining is a globally recognized sustainability program that supports mining companies in managing key environmental and social risks. As a new addition, MAC launched the Climate Change Protocol in May 2021. This protocol is designed to minimize the mining sector's carbon footprint, while enhancing climate change transparency and strengthening the sector's ability to adapt to climate change. Furthermore, in 2023, the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC), the leading voice of the mineral exploration and development community, released a five-year strategic plan ([https://www.pdac.ca/docs/default-source/communications/pdac\\_strategic\\_plan\\_2023.pdf](https://www.pdac.ca/docs/default-source/communications/pdac_strategic_plan_2023.pdf)) with a focus on sustainability and environmental stewardship. The plan focuses on a competitive Canadian mineral exploration and development industry that operates responsibly in Canada and around the world. Additionally, the 2021 Action Plan for the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan includes the protection of Canada's natural environment, including developing low-footprint mines, as one of its six strategic directions.

j) National policies on tourism

In 2023, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada launched a new Federal Tourism Growth Strategy. It embraces responsible outdoor recreation and the preservation of natural spaces, with a major focus on the socio-economic functions benefits and ecosystem services provided by coastal ecosystems and waterfront communities. This environmental supports investments in recreational trails and national park enhancements, while fostering a greater sense of environmental responsibility.

k) National policies on urban development

There is no overarching national policy on urban development and wetlands.

l) National policies on infrastructure

Under Canada's National Adaptation Strategy, launched in 2022, the Government of Canada is working to embed resilience considerations across all future infrastructure funding programs. This means the investments in assets that enable housing protection and development will continue to make communities liveable and deliver reliable services in the face of climate change. This includes finding ways to support and promote the use of natural and hybrid infrastructure to create more resilient communities. Natural infrastructure, such as wetlands, can increase community resilience through stormwater and urban heat management and provide co-benefits like reduced pollution, enhanced biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and nature access. The National Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan recognizes the importance of using wetlands to bolster Canada's climate resilience and contains the following related objectives:

- The use of nature-based solutions is accelerated to increase resilience and maximize co-benefits such as reducing stress on grey infrastructure, increasing social benefits of nature, and climate change mitigation.
- All infrastructure systems in Canada are climate-resilient and undergo continuous adaptation to adjust for future impacts to deliver reliable, equitable, and sustainable services to all of society.

m) National policies on industry

There is no overarching national policy on industry and wetlands.

n) National policies on aquaculture and fisheries

Through the Fisheries Act, Fisheries and Oceans Canada regulates the aquaculture industry to protect fish and fish habitat, including wetlands. The Act sets out authorities on fisheries licensing, management, protection and pollution prevention. Ensuring that aquaculture operators meet environmental protection standards is vital in protecting Canada's aquatic environment and keeping marine resources productive and available. As outlined in the General Aquaculture Regulations Forward Regulatory Plan (2024-2026), amendments are underway to improve and consolidate aquaculture-related content within existing Fisheries Act regulations. Canada's provinces and territories also play an essential role in approving site applications, regulating operations and fostering industry development. The provinces have major powers and responsibilities related to aquaculture management and development.

o) National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management

In 2023 the Government of Canada strengthened its Freshwater Action Plan by launching the Canada Water Agency (CWA). The CWA works to keep Canada's water clean, and to protect and restore water quality and ecosystem health in major watersheds, including wetlands, across the country.

p) National policies on wastewater management and water quality

All levels of government share the responsibility for managing the collection, treatment, and the release of wastewater effluent. In 2024, the Government of Canada renewed its commitments to the Canada-Community

Building Fund. The funding allows communities to make strategic investments in essential infrastructure, such as drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

Regarding water quality, the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines Summary Tables published by Health Canada in 2024 represent national water quality guidelines for major water uses in Canada. Although not specific to wetlands, these guidelines suggest site-specific guidance for the protection of aquatic life, which includes wetlands and wetland species, and agricultural water uses. Furthermore, Health Canada published the Guidelines for Canadian Recreational Water Quality – Microbiological Pathogens and Biological Hazards in 2023 to provide background information for those interested in recreational water quality and safety.

q) National policies, strategies or plans on sanitation

In Canada, the responsibility for providing clean, safe and reliable drinking water to the public generally rests with the provinces and territories, while municipalities usually oversee the day-to-day operations of the treatment facilities. The Government of Canada leads the development of the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, provides scientific and technical expertise to the provincial and territorial governments, supports their responsibilities through shared investments in water and wastewater infrastructure and shares responsibility for ensuring the safety of drinking water supplies on federal lands, in federal facilities, and in First Nations communities.

Additionally, as part of Canada's 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), SDG 6, clean water and sanitation, aims to ensure access to safe water sources and sanitation for all.

r) National policies, strategies or plans on food security

The Food Policy for Canada establishes a vision for all people in Canada to be able to access adequate safe, nutritious, and culturally diverse food; and a food system that is resilient and innovative, sustains the environment and supports the economy. No updates have been made to the Food Policy for Canada in the last triennium.

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

[Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality](#)

[Guidelines for Canadian Recreational Water Quality – Microbiological Pathogens and Biological Hazards](#)

[Canadian Water Quality Guidelines Summary Tables](#)

[General Aquaculture Regulations Forward Regulatory Plan \(2024-2026\)](#)

[Canada's Fisheries Act](#)

[National Adaptation Strategy](#)

[Federal Tourism Growth Strategy](#)

[Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan](#)

[Towards Sustainable Mining](#)

[Clean Fuel Regulations](#)

[Blue Economy Regulatory Review Roadmap](#)

[Project Finance for Permanence conservation initiative](#)

[Canada's Oceans Protection Plan](#)

[Canada Water Agency](#)

[Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada](#)

[Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation](#)

## 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

>>> Not directly, however provinces and territories in Canada tend to develop their own wetland management guidelines and strategies, often in collaboration with the Government of Canada. For example, in January 2023 Yukon released A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands, the territory's first ever wetlands policy.

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

[A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands](#)

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

>>> Assessments to measure environmental flow have been undertaken in some areas. For example, climate change vulnerability assessments have been carried out at some Ontario National Wildlife Areas since 2021, where changing water levels and increasingly ice-free winters require further examination and understanding. These assessments may inform wildlife area managers to adapt infrastructure and habitat management actions accordingly. As well, bi-annual surveys of Ontario National Wildlife Areas with significant wetland habitat have occurred since 2021 that included monitoring birds, anurans, water quality, and vegetation quality.

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?

☒ B=No

## 2.3 Additional Information

>>> The designation and management of Ramsar Sites in Canada has not improved the sustainable use of water in Canada. Canadian wetlands that have received Ramsar designation already demonstrate sustainable water use.

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}

☒ B=No

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

>>> Projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management are conducted at all levels of jurisdiction and within various organizations. Here are a few examples from the last triennium:

- Environment and Climate Change Canada recently updated marsh-bird-based ecological performance indicators to support the adaptive management of long-term outflow regulation for Lake Ontario. Data is drawn from ongoing programs, such as the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program and the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program.
- The Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) and Trout Unlimited Canada (TUC) co-founded the Cows & Fish Riparian Management Society to promote best management practices regarding cattle grazing and healthy riparian habitats in Alberta. For example, as part of Alberta’s Bull Trout Recovery Program, Cows and Fish is assisting TUC in restoring a portion of Radiant Creek that has been affected by flooding. In April 2022, TUC installed trail cameras within the rehabilitation area to monitor how Post-Assisted Log Structures (PALS), installed in 2021, affected the stream during the spring snowmelt season (more at: <https://tucanada.org/2023/01/11/radiant-creek-2022/>).
- The Government of British Columbia has been supporting the development and calibration of the Wetlands Ecosystem Services Protocol (WESP) in partnership with the British Columbia Wildlife Federation. This project is developing a standardized tool to measure the functional attributes of wetlands and further support water allocation and management of ecological function. Between 2021-2023 WESP calibration occurred in three ecoprovinces. An additional water allocation pilot is underway in partnership between Treaty 8 First Nations and the Province of British Columbia that seeks improvements in water management while respecting treaty rights and cultural practices (more at: <https://www.bc-er.ca/news/three-water-management-basins-under-new-pilot-environmental-flow-needs-policy-for-water-allocations/>).
- In British Columbia, through the Fraser River Estuary Salmon Habitat (FRESH) program, and with local and Indigenous partners, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is restoring tidal marsh and migration pathways for wildlife along the Fraser River Estuary. In Saskatchewan, DUC and Cowessess First Nation are restoring wetlands and grasslands by connecting Cowessess and Lake Winnipeg for healthy land and water.
- In collaboration with Brandon University, Queen’s University, University of Waterloo, researchers from the Université Laval are continuing to test new techniques to restore mined peatlands (fens) after peat extraction.

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

☒ C=Partially

## 2.6 Additional Information

>>> Constructed wetlands/ponds are used as wastewater treatment technology including tertiary treatment systems in Canada with examples in Ontario, Nova Scotia, Yukon, and many remote northern communities.

For example, in 2022, in partnership with the Green Municipal Fund, Brazeau County, Alberta, completed a pilot study to assess the use of constructed floating wetlands (CFWs) to treat municipal sewage. The study found that installation of larger, aerated CFW systems will significantly improve the quality of municipal sewage discharge. Conservation Pro and Native Plant Solutions, the consulting divisions of Ducks Unlimited Canada, offer stormwater-management solutions on a fee for service basis to industry and developers by designing and building constructed wetlands and naturalized stormwater management ponds to provide flood mitigation and water quality benefits.

### 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}

☒ C=Partially

#### 3.1 Additional Information

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

>>> Many of the principles and guidance provided by Ramsar are reflected in federal and/or provincial and territorial guidelines and programs available to the private sector. The Government of Canada's Impact Assessment Act is discussed in Q13.3. As a provincial example, the Environmental Mitigation Policy (EMP) for British Columbia is widely used across activities and sectors and aligns with the principles of wise use. The EMP outlines processes for making well-informed decisions about how to use or develop B.C.'s natural resources and provides guidance and considerations for mitigation of environmental values.

Additionally, many non-governmental organizations promote wetland wise use the private sector, through several of their programs. For example, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) works with landowners to conserve wetlands and associated habitat for the benefit of both wildlife and humans. DUC has provided mitigation support for key industries like oil and gas, potash mining and forestry. Through these partnerships, DUC has worked to protect, restore and enhance wetland features on a diverse landscape, aligning with the Ramsar wise use principles and guidance. Canada's Oil and Natural Gas Producers operating in and around wetlands follow provincial wetland policies in Alberta and good management practices which are inclusive of the handbook strategies of wetland inventory, science-based management, integrated management, restoration and invasive plants. Furthermore, the Nature Conservancy of Canada applies the Ramsar wise use principles to wetland protection efforts (land securement and restoration work).

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

>>> a) Ramsar Sites

- Columbia Wetlands Wildlife Management Area (CWWMA): Local conservation groups and conservation partners continue to conduct wildlife and species at risk inventory that inform management of the CWWMA. Forest harvesting has been completed in the CWWMA through close collaboration between forest licensees and wetland managers.

- Lac Saint-Pierre: the ZIP Committee carries out numerous wetland conservation projects on Lac Saint-Pierre every year. Conservation efforts in the Lac Saint-Pierre floodplain have significant positive impacts on nearby wetlands, mainly by improving water quality and increasing hydrological connectivity.

b) Wetlands in general

Under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), there are four Canadian public-private

partnerships, known as Habitat Joint Ventures, that set habitat objectives and deliver habitat conservation programs at a regional level.

NAWMP efforts are complemented through federally funded actions by private partners. For example, in 2023 the Government of Canada renewed its commitments to the Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP), a national program that secures ecologically sensitive private lands and private interests in lands. The NHCP is delivered through agreements with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Wildlife Habitat Canada, in collaboration with the Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts on behalf of local and regional land trusts across the country. This program contributes to Canada's target to protect 30% of its lands and inland waters by 2030. Furthermore, through the Conservation Exchange Pilot, the Government of Canada supports business and conservation organizations as they undertake projects that help advance Canada's conservation goals. For example, in 2021 Irving Oil Ltd. and Ducks Unlimited Canada partnered to restore a salt marsh in Nova Scotia, transitioning these systems from unnatural and highly modified habitats to richer historically natural dynamic coastal wetlands.

Provinces and territories engage with the private sector in wetland conservation by supporting programs that promote wetland wise-use, restoration and management. For example, through the Wetlands Conservation Partner Program, the Government of Ontario continues to support partners in undertaking projects that restore and enhance wetlands in priority areas across Ontario. In Manitoba, privately-owned peat harvesting companies must adhere to the Peatlands Stewardship Act and are required to restore harvested peatlands, balancing sustainable peatland use and conservation. Furthermore, the Government of Manitoba and local governments support programming for watershed districts to undertake wetland conservation. From 2018 to 2023, watershed districts restored 47 wetlands for a total of 504 hectares, established 9 constructed wetlands for a total of 21 hectares and protected 213 hectares of wetlands through conservation agreements.

Non-governmental organizations continue to make impactful progress on wetland conservation in Canada through various programs and activities. For example, since 2021, Nature Conservancy Canada has conserved over 118,000 acres of wetlands and over 168,000 acres of associated upland habitat. As of 2024, DUC's conservation footprint spans some 12,000 active wetland and upland projects, with over 2.5 million hectares of land in direct conservation and some 90 million hectares of land influenced for conservation outcomes through a diverse range of partnerships, policies, and business practices that promote an outcome-oriented approach across Canadian landscapes. Trout Unlimited Canada is involved in environmental education programming, riparian tree and shrub planting and bioengineering, stream restoration, promoting/encouraging beaver co-existence, and efforts to encourage beaver activity on small streams where beavers were historically present. The British Columbia Waterfowl Society manages a federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary and promotes public awareness of the value of conserving these critical lands, and particularly wetland habitats associated with the Fraser River Delta and Estuary. The Sanctuary's wetlands are managed for wildlife, integrated with compatible public use.

Members of industry associations such as the Canadian Cattle Association, Canada's Oil and Natural Gas Producers, and the Mining Association of Canada, undertake voluntary and/or regulated actions to contribute to wetland information, mitigation of impacts, and restoration. For example, in 2022, Teck Resources launched a public nature-positive commitment (<https://www.teck.com/news/news-releases/2022/teck-sets-nature-positive-goal>) to conserving or rehabilitating at least three hectares for every one hectare affected by its mining activities, and started by conserving 14,000 hectares, which includes, in collaboration with the NCC, the purchase of the nearly 8,000-hectare Next Creek Watershed in the West Kootenays of British Columbia.

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

Wetlands Conservation Partner Program

Conservation Exchange Pilot

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).

>>> In 2021, the Government of Canada made an historic \$2.35B investment in the conservation of Canada's nature, responding to the global biodiversity crisis, threats to Canada's ecosystem and wildlife and pressures for sustainable recovery and well-being of Canadians. The Enhanced Nature Legacy will contribute to protect 25% of Canada's land and inland waters by 2025 and provide an increase in overall funding for the conservation of wetlands across the country. Additionally, the Natural Heritage Conservation Program continues with \$90 million over three years starting in 2023, for purposes of conserving private lands and private interests in lands, of which many areas will include wetlands.

The Ecological Gifts Program, administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada, allows landowners who donate full title or a partial interest in ecologically sensitive land, including wetlands, to receive an enhanced income tax credit. Between January 2021 and March 31, 2024, 312 ecologically sensitive lands have been secured under the program, of which at least 36% contain wetlands

The Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (HSP) continues to provide incentives to restore or create Species at Risk habitat, including wetland habitat. For example, in 2024, the Kawartha Land Trust received



funding under the HSP to protect and enhance species at risk habitat through the permanent securement of wetland and grassland habitats in the Kawartha Lakes of south-central Ontario.

The ECCC-administered Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF) was launched in 2021 to address climate change and biodiversity loss, with a goal to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 5-7 megatons (Mt) by 2030. The NSCSF will achieve this by supporting projects that reduce the loss, restore, or improve the management of ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, peatlands and grasslands. These projects will also benefit important habitat for migratory birds, species at risk and other species of cultural and/or socio-economic importance to local communities.

Provincial Initiatives:

- In Ontario, the provincial Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program, continues to provide a 100% property tax exemption over private conservation lands, which include Provincially Significant Wetlands, to recognize, encourage and support long term private stewardship.
- In British Columbia, several incentive programs exist to support wetland conservation and wise use. This includes the Wetlands Workforce Project, the Ministry of Agriculture's Beneficial Management Practices Program (updated on an annual basis and implemented in partnership with the Environmental Farm Plan), Farmland Advantage's payment for ecosystem services program that supports wetland conservation and restoration and the Farmland-Riparian Interface Stewardship Program which works with agricultural producers to protect and enhance wetlands along with other riparian areas.
- Under the Peatlands Stewardship Act, the Government of Manitoba requires the peat harvesting industry operating on Crown peatland to provide financial security prior to development. The industry will be released from their security obligations once the government is satisfied with the land recovery undertaken.

Additionally, in forested wetlands that have been harvested for timber, a successful forest renewal survey must be completed prior to allowing the harvested stand to be eligible for re-modelling. For unsuccessful surveys, additional silvicultural activities or time for growth height must occur prior to re-survey.

- In Quebec, the Regulation respecting compensation for adverse effects on wetlands and bodies of water was updated in 2021. This regulation has a dissuasive effect, encouraging developers to avoid wetlands and to affect them as a last resort, in exchange for compensation that is redirected to the Wetland and Watercourse Restoration and Creation Program. The Alberta Wetland Policy's offset requirements impose a mandatory incentive to avoid wetlands. Reclamation standards regulate the restoration of wetland ecological function. Working with landowners (private and government) to promote best practices and to undertake offsets to disturbance.

Non-governmental initiatives:

- In Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) Weston Family Prairie Grassland Initiative, a Stewardship Investment Program, is a multi-year collaboration (2021-2024) to celebrate, steward and protect one of Canada's most ecologically valuable and threatened ecosystems: native prairie. Funding under this program will accelerate the adoption of sustainable approaches to help conserve grasslands and improve on farm sustainability and viability. Additionally, the Stewardship Investment Program and the Stewardship Credit Pilot Program provide cost-sharing opportunities and/or direct incentives for landowners to maintain/improve the health of wetlands.
- Ducks Unlimited Canada's (DUC) Marginal Areas Program provides incentives to producers to convert unproductive cropland into a more biodiverse state by planting perennial forage. Now in partnership with Farm Credit Canada's Sustainability Incentive Program, producers who opt in to DUC's Marginal Areas Program can receive even more of an incentive to encourage seeding marginal areas that are unproductive to perennials, helping to improve profitability, pollinator habitat and act as buffer zones.

### 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.

>>> Through partnerships, actions of policy development/enforcement, impact assessment, economic benefit, funding incentives, and increases to infrastructure, perverse legislative and incentive measures continue to be minimized.

Policy Development:

- Agricultural policies in Canada have evolved over time with an overall decrease in producer support relative to gross farm receipts. Agricultural income policies in Canada are generally 'decoupled' from production practices and are based on drops in net income at the whole-farm level. Certain activities that damage wetlands (e.g., drainage/filling of wetlands, sloughs or potholes) are ineligible for funding under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.
- In British Columbia, a component of the Nature Smart Climate Solutions funded Provincial Wetland Project is a review of current legislation and regulations to identify changes that could be made to avoid perverse incentives discouraging conservation and wise use of wetlands. This work is intended to occur over 2024-2027.

## 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

>>> Several online open access databases at the national scale are available on invasive alien species including those that impact wetlands.

- The Government of Canada maintains lists of invasive species and reporting portals at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/wildlife-plants-species/invasive-species.html> .

- The Canadian Council on Invasive Species is the national voice and hub to protect Canada from the impacts of invasive species. Information on invasive species and reporting portals are available at:

<https://canadainvasives.ca/take-action/report/>.

-The Canadian Wildlife Federation maintains an invasive alien species encyclopaedia (<https://cwfcf.org/en/resources/encyclopedias/invasive-species/>).

Provinces and territories also maintain inventories listing invasive alien species. For example:

- British Columbia: Invasive species can be reported through their Report Invasives app, or through the provincial government website (<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/industry/report-an-invasive-species/>).

- Alberta: has a government-led database that tracks occurrences of Aquatic Invasive Species in a Fish & Wildlife Management Information system or through EDDMapS Alberta ([https://www.alberta.ca/aquatic-invasive-species-overview#:~:text=If%20you%20suspect%20any%20of,2628\)%20or%20on%20EDDMapS%20Alberta](https://www.alberta.ca/aquatic-invasive-species-overview#:~:text=If%20you%20suspect%20any%20of,2628)%20or%20on%20EDDMapS%20Alberta)).

- Ontario: Invasive Species in Ontario are reported and tracked using the web-based EDDMapS tool and through the Invasive Species page on Ontario iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/invasive-species-in-ontario>).

- Saskatchewan: The iMapInvasives platform is used in Saskatchewan to track invasive species in the province. Furthermore, invasive aquatic species can be reported at:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/wildlife-issues/invasive-species/aquatic-invasive-species/prevention-and-monitoring>

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}

☒ A=Yes

### 4.2 Additional information

>>> The 2004 Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada continues to provide guidance on the prevention and management of invasive alien species, including those that impact wetlands. The strategy assists to prevent new invasions, detect and respond to new invasive alien species as well as manage established invasive alien species through eradication, containment, and control. Transport Canada is working to complete a national policy framework to control and manage vessel hull biofouling by 2027 and continues to participate in international efforts to limit the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Further, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada is leading the development of a revitalized Canadian Action Plan to Address the Threat of AIS in collaboration with provinces and territories and other federal National AIS Committee partners. The Action Plan will be released in 2024-25.

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species (CCIS) is the national voice and hub to protect Canada from the impacts of invasive species. The CCIS works with partners across Canada to deliver tools and resources that stimulate Canadians to take action and prevent the spread of invasive species to protect Canada's ecosystems and communities. For example, the Clean Drain Dry programs outlines best practices to protect water resources and stop the spread of aquatic invasive species in Canada, commonly spread through watercrafts and gear.

Many provinces and territories also have strategies or guidelines to address invasive alien species, including those present in wetlands. For example, British Columbia (B.C.) launched the Invasive Species Strategy (2024-2028) in collaboration with the Invasive Species Council of B.C. as a strategic framework for improved invasive species management in the province. The Yukon is currently developing a strategy to monitor invasive aquatic species and actively participate on the National Aquatic Invasive Species Committee, and the Yukon Invasive Species Council. Ontario continues to implement the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan (2012) and Invasive Species Act (2015), as well as best management practices for addressing high-risk invasive species that impact wetlands such as Phragmites and water soldier. As of January 1, 2022, Ontario has regulated 42 species, four groups, one family and watercraft (boats) and watercraft equipment as carriers of invasive species under the Act. They are also currently renewing their Invasive Species Strategic Plan to address the ongoing and evolving threat of invasive species. Within Saskatchewan, several pieces of

legislation (<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/wildlife-issues/invasive-species/invasive-species-legislation>) restrict the import and transportation of potentially harmful animals, plants and disease.

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

[Clean Drain Dry](#)

[Canadian Council on Invasive Species](#)

[2004 Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada](#)

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

☒ X=Unknown

#### 4.3 Additional Information

>>> Federally managed parks and National Wildlife Areas have conservation objectives set out in site management plans. Although each protected area is managed individually in accordance with the specific characteristics of the site and local area, invasive species control efforts are included. For example, the Long Point Phragmites Action Alliance, a group of 29 partners including federal and provincial departments, has worked to control the spread of invasive Phragmites in wetlands located around Long Point, in Ontario, including Long Point and Big Creek National Wildlife Areas.

Several successful provincial programs and collaborations with non-governmental organizations exist for the control of invasive species through management actions at the provincial level.

For example, provincially, in British Columbia (B.C.), operational projects investigating the efficacy of invasive species control on wetlands show promising outcomes in yellow flag iris and canary reed grass control from the use of benthic barriers. Wetland invasives have been identified and catalogued by the Invasive Species Council of B.C. and the province has implemented the Clean Drain Dry and PlayCleanGo programs to continue to prevent the spread of aquatic invasives. Additionally, the Province's PlantWise program supports the horticulture industry's transition to become invasive-free. In Quebec, the provincial government has funded programs for the control of invasive alien plants in high ecological value areas through the Quebec Wildlife Foundation. To date, this program has enabled nearly 200 control and knowledge transfer projects to be carried out since 2018.

In salt marshes on B.C.'s Pacific Coast, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is using modern technology eradicate invasive Spartina cord grasses, enabling rapid response and targeted control efforts by manual removal and targeted herbicide application. In Eastern Ontario, DUC and conservation partners conduct active surveillance and control of invasive European water chestnut. In Manitoba's Delta Marsh Ramsar Site, DUC has built and installed physical barriers to exclude European common carp populations, while allowing native species entry. The British Columbia Waterfowl Society controls and eliminates wetland invasive plants, such as purple loosestrife and yellow flag iris, by encouraging key native species in small blocks of cleared habitat that can be intensively managed until they are established.

Trout Unlimited Canada has undertaken efforts to control invasive plants including buckthorn, Canada thistle and the common tansy, primarily along rivers and streams across Canada.

Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC) and the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture have collaborated on the removal of invasive species such as phragmites from wetland areas as well as dog-strangling vine, garlic mustard, Japanese barberry and other aggressive non-native plants.

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

[PlayCleanGo](#)

[Clean Drain Dry](#)

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

☒ C=Partially

#### 4.4 Additional Information

>>> A comprehensive effectiveness assessment of invasive alien species control programs does not exist in Canada. Certain conservation organizations, however, complete ongoing invasive alien species control programs. For example, Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and university research partners have assessed the effectiveness of NCC's work to control invasive phragmites at over 95% effective, though ongoing control is required. Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) regularly assesses the effectiveness of its wetland invasive alien species control programs. DUC has also joined the Green Shovels Collaborative, which is conducting a Cost-Benefit Analysis for Treatment and Control of Phragmites. The British Columbia Waterfowl Society habitat biologists monitor regularly to detect whether problem species are spreading, under control or eradicated (very rarely).

## 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

>>> A 'Strategic Overview of the Canadian Ramsar Program' was published by Environment and Climate Change Canada in 1996, encouraging further designation for Ramsar Sites based on: geographic and biological representation; priority areas for internationally important migratory bird species; and Ramsar Criteria. The report also encourages on-the-ground initiation of future designations by provincial, territorial, Indigenous and non-government agencies.

The Ramsar Procedure Manual 2019 also provides guidance in nomination of sites in Canada to the List of Wetlands of International Importance. These guidelines are needed to: (1) assure that nominations for listing of sites in Canada are consistent with Convention criteria and obligations; and (2) allow mechanisms for appropriate review of proposed site nominations.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 27

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 21

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

☒ X=Unknown

### 5.2 – 5.4 Additional information

>>> The following Ramsar Sites have a management plan for all or a portion of the site (depending on designation). Bracketed dates represent the year in which management plans have been updated: Baie de l'Isle Verte (2017); Beaverhill Lake (2001); Cap Tourmente (2021); Chignecto (2018); Columbia Wetlands (2004); Creston Valley (2019); Delta Marsh (2000); Fraser River Delta (2007); Grand Codroy Estuary (1992); Hay-Zama Lakes (2023); Lac Saint-François (2014); Lac Saint-Pierre (2014); Last Mountain Lake (1999); Long Point (2022); Mary's Point (2018); Matchedash Bay (2001); Mer Bleue Conservation Area (2007); Minesing Swamp (2014); Oak Hammock Marsh (1973); Old Crow Flats (2006); Peace-Athabasca Delta (2019); Point Pelee (2020); Polar Bear Pass (2002); Polar Bear Provincial Park (2018); Shepody Bay (2018); St. Clair (2018); Tabusintac Lagoon & River Estuary (2004); Whooping Crane Summer Range (2019); and Queen Maud Gulf (2018).

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

☒ C=Partially

### 5.5 Additional information

Please provide the source links or upload the source documents here indicating the assessment tool used (e.g. Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), Resolution XII.15), and the source of the information.

>>> Eight sites are known to have completed an assessment of management effectiveness: Delta Marsh, Long Point National Wildlife Area, Peace-Athabasca Delta, Polar Bear Pass, Polar Bear Provincial Park, St. Clair, Point Pelee and Whooping Crane Summer Range.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 18

#### 5.6 Additional information

>>> The following Ramsar Sites have cross-sectoral management committees: Columbia Wetlands, Delta Marsh, Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Hay-Zama Lakes, Lake Saint-Pierre, Matchedash Bay, Kuugaarjuk, Minesing Swamp, Oak Hammock Marsh, Old Crow Flats, Peace-Athabasca Delta, Point Pelee, Polar Bear Pass, Queen Maud Gulf, St. Clair, Tabusintac Lagoon & River Estuary, Whooping Crane Summer Range, and Mer Bleue Conservation Area.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 33

#### 5.7 Additional information

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

>>> The following Ramsar Sites have ecological character descriptions: Baie de L'Isle-Verte, Beaverhill Lake, Cap Tourmente, Chignecto, Columbia Wetlands, Creston Valley, Delta Marsh, Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Fraser River Delta, Grand Codroy Estuary, Hay-Zama Lakes, Lac Saint-Francois, Lac Saint Pierre, Last Mountain Lake, Long Point, Malpeque Bay, Mary's Point, Matchedash Bay, Kuugaarjuk Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Mer Bleue Conservation Area, Minesing Swamp, Musquodoboit Harbour, Oak Hammock Marsh, Old Crow Flats, Peace-Athabasca Delta, Point Pelee, Polar Bear Pass, Polar Bear Provincial Park, Queen Maud Gulf, Quill Lakes, Rasmussen Lowlands, Shepody Bay, Southern Bight-Minas Basin, Southern James Bay, St. Clair, Tabusintac Lagoon and River Estuary, Whooping Crane Summer Range.

#### 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.

>>> A challenge in updating RIS is delays in online publications. It is difficult to encourage site managers to put limited resources towards updating data if the data does not become available.

### 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}

☒ D=Planned

#### 7.1 Additional information

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

>>> Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is developing a formalized process for reporting such changes to the Administrative Authority.

The national report cycle encourages all Ramsar Site managers to relay Ramsar Site management concerns to the Administrative Authority. In addition, the Ramsar Site Managers Network, created within ECCC, encourages information sharing among site managers and with the Canadian National Focal Point. The public may also approach the Administrative Authority directly with concerns.

#### 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}

☒ B=No

#### 7.2 Additional information

If "Yes" or "Some cases", please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has **not** made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat

>>> Shoreline issues, such as erosion, have been negatively affecting the marsh at Point Pelee National Park. Environment and Climate Change Canada is involved in the Pelee Coastal Resiliency Committee that is working to address these issues.

## 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?

>>> The Canadian National Wetlands Inventory (CNWI) is a comprehensive, publicly available national geodatabase of wetlands in Canada. The initial release, in December 2023, covered 40 million hectares, and the database is being extended as additional data is incorporated.

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

[The Canadian National Wetlands Inventory](#)

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

☒ A=Yes

### 8.2 Additional information

>>> Canadian National Wetlands Inventory as of December 2023: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/wildlife-habitat/canadian-national-wetland-inventory.html>

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ A=Regular intervals ≤ 6 years

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?

>>> The CNWI is available on the Government of Canada’s Open Data Platform for download. More information can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/wildlife-habitat/canadian-national-wetland-inventory.html> and in the CNWI User Manual.

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

[Government of Canada’s Open Data Platform](#)

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

>>> Environment and Climate Change Canada continues to acquire data (including geospatial polygons and attribute data) from governments (federal, provincial, and territorial), academia, private sector, Indigenous groups, as well as non-governmental partners.

8.6 Based on the information in NWI, if available, please provide the total area in square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>) 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}

☒ E=# km<sup>2</sup>

>>> 1.29 million km<sup>2</sup>

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>.

>>> As of December 2023, the CNWI includes 13 source datasets and comprises approximately 4.1 million

wetland features covering an estimated 40 million hectares. The best available national estimate of wetland extent for all of Canada (<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-indicators/extent-wetlands.html>) is 1.29 million km<sup>2</sup> of wetlands, covering 13% of Canada's terrestrial area, excluding large lakes, rivers, and marine areas. Canada does not have the information for the table below at this time.

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

## 8.7 Additional Information

>>> The overall ecological character wetlands in Canada, including Ramsar Sites, has deteriorated since COP14. To conserve and manage these sites, managers continue to monitor water-level changes, coastal erosion, wetland species population dynamics/changes, the effects of climate change and manage and control for invasive alien species.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 3=no change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2=deterioration <input type="checkbox"/> 1=major deterioration
b) Inland	<input type="checkbox"/> 5=major improvement <input type="checkbox"/> 4=improvement <input type="checkbox"/> 3=no change <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 3=no change <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>
d) Standardization in data interpretation methods	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

g) Relevant skills	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Data collection and mapping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Others	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## 8.9 Additional Information

e.g explain others as referred to in (j)

>>> Environment and Climate Change Canada and partners have been working to continue the development of the Canadian National Wetland Inventory. Canada is a large country, and much of it is remote, making comprehensive on-the-ground data collection prohibitive. Wetlands are difficult to map using remotely sensed data in part because of their variability. Building capacity in Indigenous communities to map and monitor wetlands based on Indigenous Science is a priority.

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 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 type="checkbox"/>
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Data interpretation and communication	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Others	<input checked="" 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

>>> The 1991 Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation (FPWC) guides federal actions on wetland conservation in Canada, noting that wetland conservation is a shared federal, provincial, and territorial responsibility. The goals of the FPWC are to: maintain wetland values and functions; no net loss of wetland functions; enhancement and rehabilitation of wetlands where there is loss and degradation; recognition of wetland values; securement of significant wetlands; recognition of sustainable management practices; and utilization of wetlands in a sustainable and productive manner. The FPWC also outlines strategies for the wise use and management of wetlands so that they can continue to provide a broad range of functions on a sustainable basis.

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

[Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation](#)



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}

☒ A=Yes

### 9.3 Additional information

>>> In Canada, wetlands are recognized as natural water infrastructure at the scale of river basins through existing legislation, regulatory authority and policy. Canada is a signatory to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (1972) and recognizes the importance of wetlands to the maintenance of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. Furthermore, the Canada Water Agency (CWA) recognizes wetlands as natural water infrastructure that is integral to water resource management through the Federal Water Policy and the Freshwater Action Plan (2023).

The St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011 to 2026 is the latest Canada-Quebec Agreement on the St. Lawrence to conserve and enhance the St. Lawrence. The Plan has identified biodiversity conservation, improved water quality, and sustainable use as the foundation of the partners' joint actions.

The value the government of Ontario places upon wetlands in water resource management is reflected in legislation and strategies that include the: Clean Water Act (2006), Lakes and River Improvement Act (1990), and Protecting People and Property: Ontario's Flooding Strategy (2020). As regulators, Conservation Authorities are empowered by Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act to regulate development and activities in or adjacent to river or stream valleys, Great Lakes and inland lakes' shorelines, watercourses, hazardous lands and wetlands. They also regulate the straightening, changing, diverting or interfering in any way with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or wetland. This work is to ensure that development taking place on these lands is protected from flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches and pollution, and that the conservation of land is not affected by development.

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

[St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011 to 2026](#)

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

### 9.4 Additional information

>>> Wetland communication, education, participation and awareness expertise and tools are often incorporated into wetland conservation and management projects funded by all levels of government in Canada. For example,

- In Ontario, the Conservation Authorities (CA) under the Conservation Authorities Act work with municipalities to identify and protect natural heritage values of their region, including wetlands, through the land-use planning processes, and undertake local conservation and stewardship projects to protect and restore wetlands within their jurisdictions. Furthermore, CA's collectively own some of the largest land holdings, providing wetland protection and spaces to hold environmental education programs like the Children's Water Festival, which encourages children to become water stewards in their communities.

- In Manitoba, integrated watershed management plans (IWMPs) incorporate communication and education recommendations related to wetland issues. To date, 28 IWMPs have been initiated in Manitoba, of which 24 have been completed and are being implemented.

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

### 9.5 Additional information

>>> Many industries and non-government organizations collaborate with provincial and federal government agencies for the development of policies, regulations and guidelines relating to wetland enhancement, mitigation or adaptation to climate change. For example, DUC has been involved in the development of the newly released Yukon Policy for Wetland Stewardship (2022) and has contributed to the development of the Saskatchewan Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy.

As a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Canada submits a national greenhouse gas inventory covering anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks.

To contribute to achieving targets set out in climate change and biodiversity loss policies, the Government of Canada has established the Natural Climate Solutions Fund, a horizontal initiative which will help Canada meet its climate change mitigation objectives. Included in the initiative is the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF), aimed at reducing annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 5-7 megatons (Mt) by 2030. The

NSCSF will achieve this by supporting projects that reduce the loss, restore, or improve the management of ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, peatlands and grasslands. Furthermore, in 2022, Canada announced its National Adaptation Strategy (NAS), as a whole-of-society strategy that establishes a shared vision for climate resilience in Canada. It is structured around five key systems, one of which is Nature and Biodiversity. Nature-based climate solutions (or natural climate solutions) will help Canada meet its climate change mitigation objectives by reducing emission.

The National Research Council (NRC) has been developing technical guidance on the design of nature-based coastal infrastructure solutions that harness the ecosystem services provided by constructed, restored or enhanced wetlands for flood and erosion risk management. Multiple wetland research projects are underway in Chignecto Isthmus, Nova Scotia, the Acadian Peninsula, New Brunswick, and the Fraser estuary, British Columbia, with a further wetland restoration pilot planned in the Great Lakes in 2024. The NRC has also been working with academic partners to conduct laboratory research to quantify the role of native Canadian wetland vegetation species in reducing coastal flood hazards, and the development of numerical models that can predict saltmarsh evolution in Canadian coastal settings.

Several provinces and territories also have also established guidance on enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change. For example:

- Manitoba's Peatland Stewardship Act promotes the protection and conservation of peatlands. As peatlands are the largest terrestrial carbon storage ecosystem, this commitment directly aids with climate change mitigation. Further, the Boreal Wetlands Conservation Codes of Practice were developed as part the Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan, and provide guidance on how to avoid, minimize, and offset for impacts to boreal wetlands due to resource road development.
- British Columbia's Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy outlines a broad range of actions for 2022-2025 to address climate impacts and build resilience across B.C., including on-the-ground actions for the conservation and rehabilitation of wetlands.
- In Atlantic Canada, the role of wetlands in mitigating coastal and inland flooding has been identified and promoted in all four provinces. For example, coastal wetlands and peatlands in the Atlantic region are identified priorities under the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund and in the development of the Canadian National Wetland Inventory.
- In Saskatchewan, the Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy currently in development, includes retaining sufficient wetlands on the landscape to help achieve agri-environmental outcomes, including resilience to flooding and drought, caused by climate change.

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

[British Columbia's Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#)

[Alberta's Boreal Wetlands Conservation Codes of Practice](#)

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

>>> Canada's NDC, as of 2021, is to reduce emissions by 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030, a substantial increase of ambition. Additionally, Canada is committed to reducing its emissions to net-zero by 2050. Wetland conservation and restoration is supported as a nature-based solution to climate change.

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}

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.7 Additional information

>>> Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada launched the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) in 2023. The Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program under the Sustainable CAP helps producers conserve and enhance the resiliency of agricultural landscapes by accelerating the adoption of beneficial management practices, such as maintaining and restoring wetlands and native grasslands. The Sustainable CAP also includes Environmental Farm Plan programs, which increase farmers' awareness and management of on-farm environmental risks and include financial incentives to encourage the adoption of beneficial management practices and technologies. On-farm beneficial management practices eligible for financial assistance include water quality protection through soil and nutrient management, riparian protection/enhancement, wetland restoration, biodiversity conservation, wildlife habitat stewardship and mitigation of wildlife damage.

The Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (SAS), to be released in 2024, is being developed in collaboration with a diversity of partners, to provide an integrated and coordinated approach to improving the agriculture sector's environmental performance and supporting its long-term vitality. The SAS will focus on five priority areas: climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and resilience, biodiversity, water, and soil health.

At the provincial level, through the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture, agro-ecosystem conservation plans in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have identified linkages between healthy wetlands and productive farms and have

developed strategies to advance wetland conservation. Furthermore, the Saskatchewan Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy (being developed and planned for implementation in January 2025) has a wetland retention goal to support and maintain viable farming systems and environmental goals.

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

## 9.8 Additional information

### >>> a) Agricultural-wetland interactions

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), focuses its research, development and technology transfer activities on, among other topics, improved water and nutrient management practices, cropping systems to reduce erosion, and a better understanding of the role of wetlands on farms, including, the potential contribution of wetlands to agricultural resilience to climate change. Within the last three years, AAFC has conducted research including: the role of small wetlands in nutrient cycling, and the management of farm wetlands to develop best management practices that support crop yield, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. This includes the Living Lab Network's research in collaboration with producers related to constructed wetlands and riparian habitat restoration to enhance biodiversity and carbon sequestration. Furthermore, a Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands-funded research project in Atlantic Canada identified the pollinator diversity and abundance supported by wetlands adjacent to farms and estimated their impacts on farm production.

Examples of research undertaken by non-governmental organizations and academia on agricultural-wetland interactions include:

- Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has conducted research in southwest Manitoba to assist landowners, industry and government understand carbon storage and methane emissions from wetlands in two important agricultural landscapes: cattle farms and annual crop fields. This study will help inform how different agricultural practices can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, this study will inform offset protocols for wetland restoration, potentially providing a new revenue stream to beef and crop producers. DUC has also partnered with the Canola Council of Canada and the University of Calgary, to determine strategies that conserve biodiversity without negatively impacting overall agricultural yield. DUC has also collaborated with the University of Toronto on a project that will measure the ability of wetlands in agricultural landscapes to store carbon. Findings will contribute to the development of carbon protocols while providing important information to guide the protection, conservation, restoration and management of freshwater wetlands.
- The Saskatchewan Water Security Agency (WSA) has an updated wetland inventory that covers a large portion of the province's agricultural zone. The WSA is using this information along with the results of its Demonstration and Research Projects initiative to develop the Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy.
- Birds Canada has multiple examples published. For example, Studholme et al (2023. Influence of surrounding land cover on marsh-breeding birds: implications for wetland restoration and conservation planning. *Journal of Great Lakes Research* 49:318–331) showed that land use affected the abundance of water birds.
- Memorial University researchers have been studying how agricultural drainage affects carbon cycling and greenhouse gas emissions in boreal peatlands.
- The University of New Brunswick has specific wetland research projects concerning salt marsh restoration, and the relationship to agricultural uses.

### b) Climate change

Environment and Climate Change Canada completed a 5-year project in 2022 to assess the resilience of coastal wetlands in the Great Lakes Basin to climate change, engaging with First Nations Right Holder, stakeholders, and wetland managers and stewards. The study improved the understanding of Great Lakes coastal wetland vulnerability to plausible climate change scenarios (especially predicted water-level changes) and identified coastal wetlands most at risk of becoming degraded or lost. It also explored evidence-based adaptation approaches best suited to enhance coastal wetland resilience to projected future climate changes. Natural Resource Canada (NRCan)'s Climate Change Adaptation Program (2022-2027) supports projects to improve the valuation of natural assets in the context of climate change and the integration of nature-based infrastructure (including wetlands) in coastal and stormwater management. The Geological Survey of Canada's (GSC) Climate Change Geoscience within NRCan, with support from the Indigenous Relations

Network, has been conducting geoscientific pilot studies in British Columbia, Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories on coastal flooding, erosion and accretion dynamics. The Canadian Forest Service (CFS) at NRCan found that small, forested wetlands positively influence hydrologic and water quality response to climate change.

Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC) is currently researching nature-based solutions and climate resilience for major public infrastructure. HICC promotes better understanding of the value and use of natural infrastructure, including wetlands, through collaboration with the National Research Council and the Standards Council of Canada.

At the provincial level, the Government of Manitoba has supported the Peatlands Ecological Research Group. Additionally, research projects will contribute to improving the sustainability of Manitoba's peat resources, including expanding and enhancing wetland inventory coverage, as well as carbon dating projects.

Saskatchewan's Water Security Agency has partnered with the University of Saskatchewan to measure baseline carbon storage values in wetland soils and the changes following land use changes, such as the draining or farming of wetlands. At the territorial level, the Yukon is currently studying carbon fluxes within Yukon peatlands, and how these may be impacted by placer mining activity.

Examples of research undertaken by non-governmental organizations on climate change and wetlands include:

- With support from the Climate Action and Awareness Fund, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is contributing to innovative climate research studies. For example, a project led by the University of Waterloo will quantify how peatland management can contribute to climate change mitigation as a nature-based solution.
- Canada's Oil and Natural Gas Producers, Pathways Alliance and the Petroleum Technology Alliance of Canada are working collaboratively through the Oil Sands Monitoring Program to address wetland monitoring. Some Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) member companies work with organizations such as DUC on wetlands, to benefit from their research findings and to implement wetland restoration and offsets as part of their reclamation programs.
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Canada is leading the National Peatland Policy Project (NPPP), a 3-year initiative to develop a vision and strategy for the protection, restoration, and stewardship of peatlands in Canada. As part of this project, WCS Canada has completed a comprehensive review of all policy relevant to peatlands across all levels of government in Canada.

#### c) Valuation of ecosystem services

At the provincial level, in Quebec, the provincial government is currently supporting research projects concerning the function of wetlands for the development of ecosystem service indicators. These projects are focusing on biodiversity, hydrological and carbon sequestration functions, to allow for a better understanding of the role of wetlands in flood mitigation, water supply and connectivity of natural environments. In Saskatchewan, the provincial government and the University of Saskatchewan have projects to quantify the ecosystem services loss associated with the drainage of prairie pothole wetlands as well as economic analyses and impacts of wetland drainage.

Examples of research undertaken by non-governmental organizations on the valuation of ecosystem services include:

- The Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC) has been involved with Natural Capital projects to value forested properties (including forested wetland) and is currently working on nature-based solutions that provide valuation/value propositions for investing in conservation to mitigate climate change.
- Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is actively involved in research focused on understanding the water quality, water quantity, biodiversity, and climate mitigation benefits associated with wetlands in agricultural landscapes of Canada. DUC is also involved in examining how wetlands in watersheds used for hydroelectric generation can help mitigate climate risk for power generation companies.

### 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}

☒ C=Partially

#### 9.9 Additional information

>>> The 1991 Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation (FPWC) guides federal actions on wetland conservation in Canada, including urban and peri-urban wetlands. The goals of the FPWC are to: maintain wetland values and functions; no net loss of wetland functions; enhancement and rehabilitation of wetlands where there is loss and degradation; recognition of wetland values; securement of significant wetlands; recognition of sustainable management practices; and utilization of wetlands in a sustainable and productive manner. The FPWC also outlines strategies for the wise use and management of wetlands so that they can continue to provide a broad range of functions on a sustainable basis.

The Wetland Restoration Program (2023-2024) is being undertaken by Parks Canada to create and enhance wetland habitat within the matrix of farmland and natural areas in the northern sections of Rouge National Urban Park, Ontario.

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and leading insurance companies have partnered to create the Nature Force, which leverages the power of nature-based solutions and natural infrastructure to create positive outcomes including climate resilience, biodiversity, and water quality. Through this partnership, as well as ongoing research and conservation, DUC is helping municipalities and urban developers leverage wetlands to reduce

flood risk and increase their climate resilience. For example, the Sturgeon Bank Sediment Enhancement Pilot Project in British Columbia, is restoring the tidal marsh habitat and improving its resilience to sea level rise. The Nature Force is also currently funding community-based natural infrastructure projects in urban adjacent areas and upstream watersheds in the Fraser Delta area of British Columbia and the highly settled regions of Ontario and Quebec.

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

Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation

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

☒ C=Partially

9.10 Additional information

>>> Some provinces and territories have policies and initiatives specific to small wetlands, but most include small wetlands in main wetland policies. For example, Nova Scotia's, Ontario's, Saskatchewan's and the Yukon's wetland policies applies to all wetlands, regardless of size. Quebec's wetland policy applies to small ponds; however, ponds are afforded the same protection as other wetlands. Conversely, the GROW program in Manitoba covers small wetlands within their wetland conservation Ecological Good and Services (EG&S) delivery.

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan takes a habitat focus to supporting abundant waterfowl and waterbird populations. A particular area of focus is the "prairie pothole" region: some of the most productive waterfowl breeding habitat in the world (Prairie Habitat Joint Venture; <https://phjv.ca/>).

**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?

☒ A=Yes

10.1 Additional Information

>>> Canada has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration). The United Nations Declaration Act (2021) requires Canada to develop a strategy to implement all aspects of UN Declaration and affirms the Declaration as an international human rights instrument that can help interpret and apply Canadian law. It also provides a framework to advance implementation of the Declaration at the federal level. The Act requires the Government of Canada, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of Canada are consistent with the Declaration, prepare and implement an action plan to achieve the Declaration's objectives and to table an annual report on progress to align the laws of Canada and on the action plan. The Action Plan, released on June 21, 2023, includes over 180 measures to initiate work towards the implementation of the UN Declaration over the next 5 years, including measures towards ensuring the consistency of federal laws.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) administers many pieces of legislation, either in whole or in part. ISC develops and enforces regulations under authority delegated by the legislation that directly impact First Nations, Inuit, Métis and Northerners, including acts and regulations. Read more at: <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1594827768706/1594827809481>.

The Canada National Parks Act (2000) also includes sections on the Indigenous rights to the land and specifically in harvesting natural resources.

Provincial/ Territorial Legislation

Examples of subnational legislation include:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement details that the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area have asserted an aboriginal title to that Area based on their traditional and current use and occupation of the lands, waters and land-fast ice therein in accordance with their own customs and usages. Furthermore, both Nannuit Itillinga (Polar Bear Pass) and Ahaik (Queen Maud Gulf) Ramsar sites in Nunavut are co-managed between Environment and Climate Change Canada and their respective Indigenous Area Co-management Committee. Both committees were established under the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area.
- In British Columbia the Declaration On The Rights Of Indigenous Peoples Act (2019) was implemented to affirm the application of the United Nations Declaration to the laws of British Columbia, to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration; and to support the affirmation of, and develop relationships with, Indigenous governing bodies.

- The Yukon has formal land claim agreements signed with many Yukon First Nations, which address water, and can include wetlands. Furthermore, many Yukon First Nations are self-governing and have adopted their own legislation related to land, water and heritage management (all of which can relate to wetlands).

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

[Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area](#)

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?

☒ A=Yes

### 10.2 Additional Information

>>> Many site management plans include sections on cultural values of wetlands (e.g., Ahlak Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Nunavut Itillinga National Wildlife Area, Wood Buffalo National Park), as well as provincial/territorial legislation concerning environmental/impact assessment and the UN Declaration.

Although many of the site managers and other wetland management organizations do not explicitly use the guidelines from Resolution VIII.19, the use of traditional knowledge within Indigenous cultural heritage is often incorporated into wetland management. For example, the Nannuit Itillinga (Polar Bear Pass) national wildlife area is co-managed by Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Sulukvaut Area Co-management Committee (Sulukvaut ACMC). The Sulukvaut ACMC was established under the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

Furthermore, the W8banaki First Nations are involved in the management of the Lac Saint Pierre Ramsar Site. The Co-operative Management Committee of Wood Buffalo National Park considers the cultural values and traditional use for the Peace-Athabasca Delta and Whooping Crane Summer Range from 11 Indigenous government partners. These partners are: Mikisew Cree First Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Fort Chipewyan Metis Nation, Little Red River Cree Nation, Smith's Landing First Nation, Salt River First Nation, Salt River Metis, Fort Smith Metis, Deninu Kue First Nation, Hay River Metis, and Katlodeeche First Nation.

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

### 10.3 Additional information

>>> Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) supports the Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects (ICCE), which supports Indigenous communities in assessing, monitoring and managing cumulative effects, which may include wetland ecosystems. Any data and case studies that result from ICCE-supported projects are managed by the community and/or data-sharing agreements. Furthermore, the ISC supports projects that enhance environmental management capacity for First Nation and Inuit communities through the Lands and Economic Development Services Program (LEDSP). In the Atlantic region, this has included a project supporting a First Nation Community in improving the health of local wetlands and restoring culturally important species such as wild rice and sweet grass.

The Congress of Aboriginal People and the Metis National Council note that greater effort is required to enable more cases studies on the participation of Indigenous peoples.

Within provincial legislation and management organizations there are many examples of participation from Indigenous People's. In British Columbia (B.C.), several organizations and advisory boards including First Nations participation have been established between 2021-2024, including the First Nations Water Caucus, Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council, and the Collaborative Stewardship Framework. There are many B.C. NGOs working on wetland programs across the province, one of the largest being the B.C. Wildlife Federation, which launched the Wetlands Workforce Project in 2021. This project has supported over 100 jobs with an emphasis on Indigenous People, providing a positive opportunity to advance reconciliation among Indigenous communities, supporting collaboration and providing funding opportunities. In the Yukon, the Wetlands Policy (2023) was developed through a collaborative approach with a wide variety of organizations, including the Yukon First Nation governments, transboundary Aboriginal groups, and First Nation land claim-based management boards and councils.

Indigenous communities are represented on several management committees for Ramsar sites. For example, the Ahlak (formerly Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) in Nunavut is governed by the Area Co-management Committee (ACMC), which specifically involves local stakeholders in decision-making with regards to the management of the MBS. The Ahlak ACMC is composed of members from the nearest communities, Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven. When necessary, the ACMC also consults with the Ekaluktutiak and Gjoa Haven Hunters and Trappers Organizations and the Regional Inuit Association on specific matters. The Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority (CVWMA) has a local First Nation representative on its Board, and the CVWMA staff work closely with the local First Nation to manage wetlands in the Creston Valley. The Vuntut Gwichin (First Nation) are the management authority for the Old Crow Flats Ramsar site, and other Yukon First Nations are co-management partners on several Habitat Protection Areas established to protect

culturally and ecological important wetlands.

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) works closely with Indigenous partners across Canada. DUC actively supports and engages with the Indigenous Leadership Initiative as well as the Conservation Through Reconciliation Partnership, promoting Indigenous-led conservation. DUC also supports the National Indigenous Guardians Network, which has received federal funding for Indigenous community-based Guardians programs, which support local habitat stewardship initiatives, cultural and other knowledge sharing, monitoring, research, and many other important local services. DUC also supports Indigenous communities to identify high priority areas for conservation and restoration and draw significant private and philanthropic investment into Canadian conservation by advancing Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) Indigenous-led conservation initiatives in Canada.

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}

☒ A=Yes

#### 10.4 Additional information

If "yes" please list national legislation/policies and actions that consider the needs and participation of indigenous and local communities in wetland management at all relevant levels.

>>> The Government of Canada is committed to achieving reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through a renewed, nation-to-nation, government-to-government, and Inuit-Crown relationship based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership as the foundation for transformative change. The UN Declaration Act, to fully implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 94 calls to action from Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission provide guidelines as to what must be done and how it should be done. These are in alignment with the guidelines in VII.8.

Canada recognizes that the leadership and guidance of Indigenous peoples are critical to achieve Canada's domestic and international biodiversity goals and has benefited from the contributions of Indigenous Peoples in planning for and participating at international and domestic biodiversity fora. In the spirit of reconciliation, the Government of Canada partners with First Nations, Inuit and Métis leadership through initiatives like Indigenous Guardians, Indigenous-Led Area-Based Conservation, Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions, Indigenous Partnerships for Species At Risk and Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring.

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

[Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring.](#)

[Indigenous Partnerships for Species At Risk](#)

[Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions](#)

[Indigenous-Led Area-Based Conservation](#)

[Indigenous Guardians](#)

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

☒ C=In Preparation

#### 10.5 Additional information

>>> Traditional knowledge and co-management for the wise use of wetlands are encouraged in Canada but best practices have not yet been documented and compiled. Many management plans work in collaboration with Indigenous communities who use traditional knowledge and management practices.

### 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}

☒ C1=Partially

#### 11.1 Additional information

If "yes" or "partially", please indicate how many Ramsar Sites and their names

>>> Through the Canadian Wetlands Roundtable (CWR), a diverse group of stakeholders have been participating in a national dialogue regarding ecological goods and services concepts in wetland conservation. In 2022, the CWR began the development of a National Wetland Evaluation Guide for Canada, to classify wetland types and measure specific wetland attributes, to determine the ecosystem services provided by ecosystems and to inform decision-making around land-use planning.

Several local/regional assessments have been undertaken that contribute to a general understanding of the social, cultural, and economic benefits associated with wetlands in Canada, including at the Grand Codroy

Estuary site in Newfoundland, as well as the Whooping Crane Summer Range and Peace-Athabasca Delta sites.

Some provincial and territorial assessments and research projects on wetland ecosystem services have been undertaken through the University of Waterloo, Memorial University and Laval University. For example, research conducted by the Peatland Ecology Research Group through Laval University, concerning the restoration degraded peatlands to revive their ecosystem services is ongoing.

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 11.2 Additional information

>>> Provincial/territorial wetland programs and projects that contribute to food and water security are ongoing in some areas of Canada. For example, in Ontario, Conservation Authorities are legislated under the provincial Clean Water Act to support the development of source protection plans for drinking water. In British Columbia (B.C.), Stronger B.C., has created approximately 750 jobs and targeted approximately 70 watershed and wetland initiatives. In Alberta, the Wood Buffalo Action Plan includes research and hydrological restoration in the Peace-Athabasca Delta Ramsar site to improve Indigenous access, navigation, harvesting and traditional use.

Nature Conservancy Canada implements incentive programs and property management plans to maintain/improve habitat while supporting sustainable agricultural practices such as grazing and forage harvest, directly contributing to water and food security. Similarly, Ducks Unlimited Canada's (DUC) wetland conservation projects contribute to sustainable agriculture practices and help maintain healthy waters across Canada. Through DUC's conservation agreements, farmers are given the flexibility to meet their farming needs while conserving important wildlife habitat in perpetuity.

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 11.3 Additional Information

>>> Recreational programming and enhancement projects (i.e., infrastructure implementation, interpretative tours, watercraft rentals, etc) are undertaken at many Ramsar Sites.

Similarly, many conservations organizations, such as Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and Nature Conservancy Canada undertake conservation actions on public lands that result in improved natural areas for public enjoyment through ecosystem and biodiversity enhancement. For example, through DUC's NatureForce, DUC partners with insurance companies to offer natural solutions to mitigate flood risks to urban communities. The NatureForce is currently funding community-based natural infrastructure projects in urban adjacent areas and upstream watersheds in the Fraser Delta area of British Columbia and the highly settled regions of Ontario and Quebec.

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

☒ C=Partially

#### 11.4 Additional information

If "yes" or "partially", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names

>>> Twenty-six Ramsar Sites have socio-economic values included in their management planning: Baie de L'Isle-Verte; Cap Tourmente; Chignecto; Columbia River Wetlands; Creston Valley; Delta Marsh Oak Hammock Marsh; Isulijaqniq Migratory Bird Sanctuary ; Grand Codroy Estuary; Lac Saint-François; Lac Saint-Pierre; Last Mountain Lake; Long Point; Mary's Point; Kuugaarjuk); Mer Bleue Conservation Area; Minesing Swamp; Old Crow Flats; Peace-Athabasca Delta; Point Pelee National Park; Polar Bear Pass (draft management planning); Polar Bear Provincial Park; Ahiak MBS St. Clair National Wildlife Area; Tabusintac Lagoon & River Estuary; and Whooping Crane Summer Range.

A federal government commitment to preservation of socio-economic wetland values is guided by the Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation (1991), with its overall objective to promote the conservation of Canada's wetlands to sustain their ecological and socio-economic functions now and in the future.

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

#### 11.5 Additional information

>>> Twenty-five Ramsar Sites have cultural values included in their management planning: Baie de L'Isle-Verte; Cap Tourmente; Chignecto; Columbia River Wetlands; Creston Valley; Delta Marsh (partially; draft



management planning); Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary (draft management planning); Grand Codroy Estuary; Lac Saint-François; Lac Saint-Pierre; Last Mountain Lake; Long Point; Mary's Point; Kuugaarjuk Migratory Bird Sanctuary (draft management planning); Mer Bleue Conservation Area; Minesing Swamp; Old Crow Flats; Peace-Athabasca Delta; Point Pelee National Park; Polar Bear Pass (draft management planning); Polar Bear Provincial Park; Queen Maud Gulf (draft management planning); St. Clair National Wildlife Area; Tabusintac Lagoon & River Estuary; and Whooping Crane Summer Range.

Cultural values of wetlands beyond Ramsar Sites have also been included in some provincial/territorial policies and guidelines. For example, in Nova Scotia, cultural values are considered during the approval process of assessing proposed activities or alterations to wetlands. Yukon considers cultural values through Habitat Protection Area Planning and regional wetland plans in Quebec include elements of cultural value.

Canada's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples underlies its approach to ecosystem management. The recognition of different worldviews and value systems is a fundamental element.

## 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

#### 12.1 Additional Information

>>> Through the 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada, Canada is committed to ensuring that by 2030 at least 30% of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity. Wetlands are included among priority areas under funding through the Natural Climate Solutions Fund.

In 2022, Canada joined the Bonn Challenge, a global initiative to bring 350 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2030, and announced a pledge to bring 19 million hectares under restoration. This pledge is building on existing federal funding programs that support on-the-ground restoration activities across terrestrial ecosystems including wetlands in collaboration with partners. The Government of Canada's first national progress report on the Bonn Challenge pledge is planned for winter 2025. Ecosystem-specific quantitative targets are yet to be determined, although wetlands are recognized as one of the target ecosystems under Target 2 of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework and a contribution to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Some Provincial and territorial governments have also outlined targets for wetland restoration within their jurisdictions.

- Nova Scotia implemented the Nova Scotia Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act in 2021 which includes the commitment to conserve 20% of land by 2030.

- Nunavut's Land Use Plan is currently under development and has the potential to contribute up to 4% of Canada's terrestrial area and 1% of marine area as conserved.

- In 2022, Quebec announced their new Nature Plan 2030, committing to conserve 30% of Quebec land by 2030.

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 12.2 Additional information

If "yes", please provide a list of sites, specifying wetland types

>>> Under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), priority sites for wetland restoration are recognized and identified. National conservation organizations have worked collaboratively under NAWMP to prioritize efforts, using blueprinting, sustainability planning and biodiversity hotspot exercises. Habitat priorities, including wetlands, are also identified under federal funding programs (e.g., Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, Natural Climate Solutions Fund, etc).

Other methods of evaluation vary by region. For example, in 2022, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) completed a 5-year project to assess the resilience of coastal wetlands in the Great Lakes Basin in Ontario to climate change, while engaging with First Nations Right Holders, stakeholders and wetland managers and stewards. The study identified coastal wetlands most at risk of becoming degraded or lost. The study also explored adaptation approaches best suited to enhance coastal wetland resilience to projected future climate changes. In Manitoba, restoration efforts are generally prioritized towards wetlands that are threatened by competing land use such as agriculture.

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

☒ A=Yes

### 12.3 Additional information

Explain/clarify the data/statistics presented in the table above

>>> Several wetland restoration programs, plans or projects have been implemented in Canada; however, their areal extent is not known.

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}

☒ B=No

### 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

>>> Cross-sectoral actions:

Canada's 2022 to 2026 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) sets out sustainable development priorities, establishes goals and targets, and identifies actions to achieve them. The strategy reflects overarching goals for sustainability that will have benefits to wetlands.

The Impact Assessment Act (IAA 2019) requires assessments for projects that have the most potential for adverse environmental effects within federal jurisdiction. These include effects on fish and fish habitat, other aquatic species, or migratory birds; effects on federal lands; effects that cross-jurisdictional boundaries; effects that impact Indigenous Peoples; and changes to the environment that are linked to any federal decisions about a project, directly or incidentally. As such, potential environmental impacts to wetlands that are within federal jurisdiction are assessed, and measures to mitigate or offset the effects are considered in

impact assessments for major development projects.

Actions carried out by provincial/territorial governments, as well as NGOs, also contribute to sustainable development in various sectors as well as the protection of wetlands and their functions. For example, in Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Environment has broad regulatory authority and responsibility to manage development impacts under various Acts including the Environmental Management and Protection Act, the Environmental Assessment Act, the Forest Resources Management Act and the Lands Act. The impacts from forestry, mining, oil and gas, wind energy, transportation development and other non-agricultural uses on the natural environment (including wetlands) are managed under this framework. Ducks Unlimited Canada has worked closely with several industry sectors to provide mitigation services to development. This mitigation work enhances the sustainability of industrial development while providing employment opportunities for First Nations communities in Northern Canada.

Examples of sector-specific actions include (list is non-exhaustive):

a) Energy

In the Yukon, wetland impacts are considered in hydro-electric power generation station relicensing projects. In British Columbia (B.C.), the British Columbia Energy Regulator, has significant water management guidelines in place to support sustainable use of water and waterbodies.

b) Mining

The Mining Association of Canada's (MAC) initiative Towards Sustainable Mining is a globally recognized sustainability program that supports mining companies in managing key environmental and social risks, including protocols for water stewardship, climate change and biodiverse conservation management. Provincially and territorially, in the Yukon, terms and conditions designed to reduce impacts of mining activities and increase reclamation are routinely applied to projects. In British Columbia, The Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines was updated in 2024 to provide enhanced environmental sustainability outcomes - including for wetlands. In Quebec, protocols are in place for discussion between the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources before applications are submitted for development projects in wetlands where exploration or operation leases have been issued.

c) Agriculture

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada launched the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) in 2023 to advance the socio-economic and environmental sustainability of the agricultural sector. The Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program under the Sustainable CAP will help producers conserve and enhance the resiliency of agricultural landscapes by accelerating the adoption of beneficial management practices, such as maintaining and restoring wetlands and native grasslands.

Provincially and territorially, in Quebec, the Comité ZIP du lac Saint-Pierre has several riparian and wetland restoration projects. In 2022, a project to reduce agricultural non-point source pollution improved water quality in the wetland region. In Manitoba, wetland conservation is a key outcome through GROW (Growing Outcomes in Watersheds), Manitoba's approach to ecological goods and services delivery. GROW's priority outcomes are improved watershed resilience to the impacts of a changing climate and improved water quality, achieved through wetland conservation, restoration and enhancement. In British Columbia, the Stewarding Agricultural Watercourses (SAW) project aims to uncover key challenges and opportunities that will allow the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food to build on the programs currently in place and take the next steps towards water resource stewardship on agricultural lands. Also, the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture's Beneficial Management Practices Program includes multiple best management practices that enhance wetland sustainability. For example, the Fraser Valley Flood Mitigation program provides best management practice funding to Fraser Valley agricultural producers at high-risk of flooding for solution-focused flood mitigation projects including riparian ecosystem/habitat restoration. In Saskatchewan, the Agricultural Water Management Program requires agency approval for agricultural drainage projects and these projects are required to mitigate impacts of drainage.

Ducks Unlimited Canada offers a suite of programs to the agricultural sector (Forage program, Conservation Easements, Marginal Areas Program) that enhance the sustainability of the agricultural sector. These programs increase the financial sustainability of farms and ranches in Canada while increasing carbon storage and biodiversity.

d) Tourism

Provincially, in Quebec, the Comité ZIP du lac Saint-Pierre Ramsar site maintains infrastructure that provide access to natural wetland environments, including wooden footbridges, hiking trails and information panels to promote good user practices. In British Columbia (B.C.), the CleanDrainDry program prevents the spread of aquatic invasive species in B.C. through recreational activities, and PlayCleanGo which reduces invasive spread by recreational boats. Interpretive walks and signage around many wetlands in B.C. Parks provide key public education information on wetland sustainability and conservation.

Ducks Unlimited Canada's (DUC) land holdings support many of Canadian's favourite recreational activities including angling, birding, camping, hunting, and paddling. In recognition of support from waterfowl hunters and their contribution to Canada's tourism sector, DUC teaches safe and ethical waterfowl hunting. DUC encourages hunters and anglers to understand their role in conservation and to support wetland conservation throughout their lives.

e) Urban development

In British Columbia, the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation (RAPR) is a fish protection regulation that protects the natural features, functions and conditions of fish habitat. The RAPR applies to any residential,

commercial, or industrial developments within 30 metres of a 'stream', in B.C.'s Lower Mainland, Southern Interior, and Vancouver Island. Notably, within the RAPR definition, 'streams', include wetlands connected by surface flow to a watercourse or body of water.

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and leading insurance companies have partnered to create the Nature Force, which leverages the power of nature-based solutions and natural infrastructure to create positive outcomes including climate resilience, biodiversity, and water quality. Through this partnership, as well as ongoing research and conservation, DUC is helping municipalities and urban developers leverage wetlands to reduce flood risk and increase their climate resilience. For example, the Sturgeon Bank Sediment Enhancement Pilot Project in British Columbia, is restoring the tidal marsh habitat and improving its resilience to sea level rise.

#### f) Infrastructure

Under the National Adaptation Strategy, launched in 2022, the Government of Canada is working to embed resilience considerations across all future infrastructure funding programs. This includes finding ways to support and promote the use of natural and hybrid infrastructure to create more resilient communities. Natural infrastructure, such as wetlands, can increase community resilience through stormwater and urban heat management and provide co-benefits like reduced pollution, enhanced biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and nature access.

Provincially, in British Columbia, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) has created a manual, Environmental Best Practices for Highways Maintenance Activities. These standardized practices and protocols serve as a practical and cost-effective means to meet regulatory agency requirements and public expectations for environmental protection. Its scope is limited to environmental best practices as they relate to the maintenance specifications described in MOTI's 2018/19 Highway Maintenance Agreement, which includes mitigation of impacts on riparian habitat (includes wetlands) and water quality.

Through management, maintenance and monitoring, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is ensuring that as Canada's historic habitat infrastructure ages, it can continue to deliver vital ecosystem services for Canadians. For example, in 2022, DUC embarked on a 10-year conservation project to renew and restore 4,900 acres (2,000 hectares) of freshwater habitat along the Wolastoq River in New Brunswick.

#### g) Industry

In Quebec, training courses and presentations are offered on request to stakeholders in the concerned sectors, to help them understand the laws, regulations and Quebec's approach to wetland and water conservation.

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) works with business leaders to find effective ways of minimizing industry's environmental impacts and achieving their sustainability goals, including through DUC's Best Management Practices program. Through pragmatic, science-based solutions approach, DUC is recognized as the conservation solutions provider for industry.

#### h) Forestry

Managed forests (both publicly and privately owned) certified by independent certification bodies (i.e., the Canadian Standards Association, Forest Stewardship Council, and Sustainable Forestry Initiative) have requirements regarding operations near waterbodies, including wetlands, in their standards. In 2022, 1.5 million km<sup>2</sup> of Canada's forest land was certified (State of Forests report).

Provincially, in Ontario, forest policies are regularly reviewed to improve their effectiveness. The Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales was recently reviewed and is being revised to ensure direction for protection of wetlands during forest management operations is based on the most current science and knowledge available. In British Columbia, the Forest and Range Evaluation Program fish/riparian monitoring protocols have been updated between 2021-24 to provide a protocol for evaluating the health of wetlands (includes consistent wetland delineation guidance), a protocol for Evaluating the Condition of Streams and Riparian Management Areas, and updated field cards for wetland management routine effectiveness evaluations.

#### i)+j) Aquaculture and Fisheries

Through the Fisheries Act, Fisheries and Oceans Canada regulates the aquaculture industry to protect fish and fish habitat, including wetlands. The Act sets out authorities on fisheries licensing, management, protection and pollution prevention. Ensuring that aquaculture operators meet environmental protection standards is vital in protecting Canada's aquatic environment and keeping marine resources productive and available. Canada's provinces and territories also play an essential role in approving site applications, regulating operations and fostering industry development. The provinces have major powers and responsibilities related to aquaculture management and development.

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) provides mitigation services to proponents who require fish habitat offsetting through fee for service activities. For example, in Ontario, DUC has delivered mitigation services and conducted independent monitoring to confirm success for fish habitat created at Clark Island and Amherst Island on Lake Ontario.

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

[Canada's Fisheries Act](#)

[Canada's National Adaptation Strategy](#)

[Towards Sustainable Mining](#)

## 13.2 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and

plans that may impact wetlands? {13.1}

☒ A=Yes

### 13.2 Additional information

>>> In Canada, the Cabinet Directive on the Strategic Environmental and Economic Assessment requires any policy, plan or program proposal that is anticipated to have important environmental implication to develop a strategic environmental assessment. Individual departments or agencies operate on a principle of self-assessment where they assess proposals they sponsor under the guidance of the Cabinet Directive.

As of 2016, federal strategic environmental assessment analysis is also required to link to the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy's goals and targets. This includes the goal of sustainably managed lands and forests, incorporating wetlands and their functions.

Provincial and territorial processes for environmental assessments are also considered. For example, in Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources uses several strategic documents to guide the development of policies and programs, notably the Ministry's Statement of Environmental Values (SEVs). SEVs are a means for designated government ministries to record their commitment to the environment and be accountable for ensuring consideration of the environment in their decisions. In the Yukon, there has been increased interest in wetlands from both the Yukon Environmental and Socioeconomic Assessment Board, and the Yukon Water Board. Establishment of an interim approach for Indian River valley wetlands, and work on the Yukon wetlands policy will also contribute to improved consideration of wetlands in environmental assessment.

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

>>> Federally, the Impact Assessment Act (IAA 2019) require assessments for projects that have the most potential for adverse environmental effects within federal jurisdiction. These include effects on fish and fish habitat, other aquatic species, or migratory birds; effects on federal lands; effects that cross-jurisdictional boundaries; effects that impact Indigenous Peoples; and changes to the environment that are linked to any federal decisions about a project, directly or incidentally. As such, potential environmental impacts to wetlands that are within federal jurisdiction are assessed, and measures to mitigate or offset the effects are considered in impact assessments for major development projects (such as new roads or extractive industry). Furthermore, the northern territories (Nunavut, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories) have integrated regulatory processes, for which requirements must be satisfied to obtain a licence, permit, or approval. Most development projects from key sectors are required to go through a screening, assessment, or panel review. Since wetlands support a disproportionately high number of species at risk, the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) is relevant. SARA sets out obligations for persons who wish to undertake projects that could adversely and negatively affect species at risk or their critical habitat. These persons are required to ensure that an assessment of environmental effects of a project is conducted. Notably, any Responsible Authority assessing a Project under the IAA must:

- Notify the competent Minister(s) in writing of the project if the project is likely to affect a wildlife species listed under SARA or its critical habitat;
- Identify the adverse effects of the Project on the listed wildlife species and its critical habitat; and
- If the project is carried out, ensure that measures are taken to avoid or lessen those effects in a way that is consistent with any applicable recovery strategy and action plans and to monitor them.

Provinces and territories have their own legislation that may require environmental assessments be done on projects with the potential to impact wetlands. For example, in Ontario, the Environmental Assessment Act sets out legal requirements to conduct environmental assessments for certain projects. Several sector-specific Class Environmental Assessments have been approved under the Environmental Assessment Act which outline the standardized planning process. In the Yukon the existing Yukon Environmental and Socioeconomic Assessment Board and the Yukon Water Board, are responsible for impact assessment reviews. In Manitoba, environmental impact assessments are required by The Environment Act for development projects including facilities, buildings, mining, roads, peat harvesting, and others. For forestry lease areas, environment impact assessments are included in the Forest Management License application process. In Nunavut there a legal requirement to conduct environmental impact assessments for development projects as per Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act. In Quebec, the Office of Public Hearings on the Environment is a public hearing body whose function is to inform and consult the population on questions relating to the quality of the environment in order to guide government decision-making with a view to sustainable development.

## 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

### 15.1 Additional information

If “yes”, please list the Ramsar Regional Initiatives in which your country is actively involved.

>>> Canada, as the sub-regional representative for North America, will sit on the Centro Regional para el Hemisferio Occidental (CREHO) board of directors.

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}

☒ B=No

### 15.2 Additional information

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

>>> Canada has not supported the development of regional wetland training and research centres; however, Canadian researchers partner with colleagues in other countries through regional research networks.

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

>>> Communication, education, participation and awareness values are incorporated in broader planning activities. For example:

a) The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) provides a national mechanism for the implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The Council’s strategic plan includes a focus on developing communications and outreach programs and materials related to the conservation of wetlands, waterfowl, and other wetland-dependent species.

b) Under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, communication, education and stewardship are key strategies implemented at the subnational level by the Habitat Joint Ventures.

Provincially, Conservation Authorities in Ontario promote awareness of the importance of wetlands in their own conservation areas and may be involved in wetland restoration projects funded locally or provincially. Also, Ontario’s Wetland Conservation Strategy promoted existing education programs (e.g. Project Wild, Envirothon, Adopt-a-Pond) and supports new programs to teach the importance of wetlands. New Brunswick’s

Department of Environment & Local Government has continued to develop and improve an online interactive map that depicts wetlands in the province. Eastern Habitat Joint Venture partners have developed and implemented CEPA plans. Under the auspices of the Canadian National Wetland Inventory, partners and ENGO's are using ESRI Survey123 Wetland Survey App to participate in collecting site-specific wetland data within Atlantic Provinces. Funding recipients in Newfoundland and Labrador are working with municipal councils and using CEPA tools to develop habitat conservation plans and engage with provincial, academic and NGO partners.

c) Multiple Ramsar designated sites (Whooping Crane Summer Range, Peace-Athabasca Delta) include CEPA objectives within their management plans and objectives.

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

>>> 21

b) at other wetlands

☒ X=Unknown

### 16.2 Additional information

>>> a) E = 21 centres. Ramsar Sites with some form of an education/visitor centre include: Baie de l'Île-Verte; Cap-Tourmente; Fraser River Delta; Delta Marsh; Grand Codroy Estuary; Lac Saint-François; Lac Saint Pierre; Last Mountain Lake; Mary's Point; Matchedash Bay; Mer Bleue Conservation Area; Columbia Wetlands; Oak Hammock Marsh; Old Crow Flats; Peace-Athabasca Delta; Point Pelee; Quill Lakes; Shepody Bay; Tabusintac Lagoon and River Estuary; Whooping Crane Summer Range; and Creston Valley.

b) Many other wetland interpretation centres are established across Canada; however, the number is unknown.

- Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has legal partnerships with three physical, wetland-focused interpretive centres (Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre (MB), Fredericton Conservation Centre (NB) and the Wetland Centre at Shubenacadie, NS). DUC's education activities and resources are designed to help young people to understand the environmental, as well as economic and social, benefits of wetlands.

- The British Columbia Waterfowl Society, operating at the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, which contains freshwater and estuarine wetlands at the mouth of the Fraser River, has a building which serves interpretive program needs and supports teaching about wetlands, coastal wildlife and related habitat issues. This site also has signage to help promote awareness of the values of estuaries, key wetland species such as the Lesser Snow Goose, and the cultural heritage of the site.

- Nature Conservancy of Canada also has many properties with interpretive signs, and several viewing areas at wetlands including blinds and viewing decks as well as trails and boardwalks with interpretive signs for visitors.

- Several interpretation areas at federal Protected Areas (e.g., the Vaseux-Bighorn National Wildlife Area) and National Parks also exist.

### 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

>>> a) For most jurisdictions, public consultation is an integral part of the policy development and regulatory process, including environmental assessments. Participation is also encouraged through community-based watershed planning activities. Within most provincial and territorial jurisdictions, environmental assessments and public consultation are required when planning and managing land. For example, as part of the development of Saskatchewan's Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy, the province engaged with a broad range of Indigenous organizations/communities and stakeholder groups.

Through Budget 2023 commitments, the Government of Canada supports stakeholder-driven actions that restore, protect and manage 8 freshwater systems: Great Lakes, Lake Winnipeg, Lake of the Woods, St.

Lawrence River, Fraser River, Saint John River, Mackenzie River, and Lake Simcoe. Rights holders and stakeholders can participate in wetland conservation and restoration activities at the watershed level. Four Canadian Habitat Joint Ventures (Eastern, Prairie, Canadian Intermountain, and Pacific Birds) integrate stakeholder participation into the decision-making process to achieve North American Waterfowl Management Plan goals. Each joint venture program operates through a joint venture advisory board whose members include federal, provincial and territorial governments, and environmental non-governmental organizations.

b) Many Ramsar Sites involve local stakeholders in site management. Several sites are under co-management regimes, while others have established management committees that include a diverse group of partners (e.g. Isulijaqniq Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Nanuit Itillinga National Wildlife Area, Old Crow Flats, and Ahiak). Others engage local organizations and stakeholders directly in management, stewardship and mitigation of impacts from surrounding land uses and protection of surrounding lands ((Point Pelee National Park, Delta Marsh, Columbia Wetlands, Oak Hammock Marsh, Isulijaqniq Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Nanuit Itillinga National Wildlife, Ahiak, Whooping Crane Summer Range, Peace Athabasca Delta, and Tabusintac). Several sites involve stakeholders by seeking advice/input through formal consultation related to management planning or environmental assessment (Point Pelee National Park, Delta Marsh, Columbia Wetlands, Oak Hammock Marsh, Isulijaqniq Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Nanuit Itillinga National Wildlife, Ahiak, Whooping Crane Summer Range, Peace Athabasca Delta, and Tabusintac).

The involvement of local stakeholders is also critical to Ramsar Site selection. Canada will only support a site nomination where there is concurrence from the province or territory and all landowners as outlined in the 'Nomination and Listing of Wetlands of International Importance in Canada' procedures manual. Proponents are also encouraged to seek support for Indigenous communities and from stakeholders.

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}

☒ A=Yes

#### 16.5 Additional information

>>> The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) was established in 1990 to provide a national mechanism for the implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and to take a leadership role in wetlands policy and awareness. The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) provides leadership to the Canadian Habitat and Species Joint Ventures to help achieve North American Waterfowl Management Plan goals. It also serves as the national coordinating committee for developing and implementing national level wetland policies and programs in Canada. Its membership includes representatives from Environment and Climate Change Canada (1), the Canadian North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee (1), Habitat and Species Joint Ventures (7), non-governmental organizations (6) and provinces and territories (4).

In addition, the Canadian Wetlands Roundtable, a partnership of environmental non-governmental organizations, industry and government, was established in 2014 and focuses on supporting the development and implementation of a national wetlands conservation strategy for Canada through collaborative development of policy options and communication activities.

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

#### 16.6 Additional information

>>> a) Ramsar Site managers

The Wetlands Office, situated within Environment and Climate Change Canada, serves as a national



secretariat and communicates to the Ramsar Site managers' network through newsletters, workshops and emails.

b) other MEA national focal points

Communication with other MEA national focal points is led by the Ramsar NFP and occurs as a function of day-to-day work. An interdepartmental international biodiversity committee is a major mechanism for information sharing.

c) other ministries, departments and agencies

There are several committees through which Ramsar-related information may be shared with other relevant federal, provincial and territorial ministries, departments and agencies, such as the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee, the Canadian Wetlands Roundtable and the federal, provincial, territorial Biodiversity Steering Group.

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

>>> Many organizations promote World Wetlands Day through social media or in school. For example:

- Environment and Climate Change Canada publishes an annual social media rollout highlighting World Wetlands Day to raise awareness of wetlands and their importance, as well as wetland conservation efforts occurring in Canada.
- At the Columbia River Ramsar site, the site management team and Living Lakes Canada held interviews with provincial news organizations on World Wetland Day (2024) discussing the drying of the site due to inadequate policies protecting surface and ground water sources.
- The Codroy Valley Area Development Association (situated in the Grand Codroy Estuary Ramsar site) hosted a public "World Wetlands Day" celebration event at the wetlands interpretation centre in February 2024.
- For World Wetlands Day 2024, Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) announced acquisition of a new property containing wetlands, Moose Pasture in Alberta. NCC also appeared on talk radio stations across the country to talk about local wetland conservation and restoration efforts.
- The Pathways Alliance companies have funded and participated in an annual World Wetlands Day symposium held at Mount Royal University.
- In 2023, to recognize World Wetlands Day and Ducks Unlimited Canada's (DUC) 85th anniversary, DUC committed to an ambitious goal to conserve, restore and influence more than 15 million acres of natural habitat across Canada during the year. In 2024, DUC partnered with Little Symphony to create a playlist call 'Wetlands for Wellness' to promote the importance of connecting with nature and wetlands for mental health and wellbeing.
- Trout Unlimited Canada held a low-tech process-based restoration workshop in southern Alberta in 2023 which included messaging on the importance of beavers in maintaining wetland complexes.
- In Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources social media accounts (@ONResources) posted World Wetlands Day content to raise awareness of the benefits of wetlands and the Ramsar Treaty.
- In Saskatchewan, the Water Security Agency and the Ministry of the Environment promote wetland stewardship on World Wetlands Day through social media and media interviews.
- The ecohydrology research group at the University of Waterloo in Ontario has been hosting a research symposium on World Wetlands Day for the last 9 years. 2024's lecture discussed "The Value of Urban Wetlands".
- The British Columbia Waterfowl Society advertise Wetlands Day with posters and handouts and posts about the Fraser River Delta Ramsar site on Twitter or on their Facebook page in and around World Wetlands Day.
- The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples's affiliate organization participates in World Wetlands Day by educating schoolchildren about the physical function of wetlands through a self-designed, built and hands-on wetland module.

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

#### 16.8 Additional information

>>> Each year (2021, 2022, 2023) the North American Waterfowl Management Plan partners in Canada publish "Habitat Matters," presenting the annual accomplishments under the Plan. The report showcases successes for each region.

Examples from environmental organisations throughout Canada include:

- Birds Canada's annual newsletter, the Marsh Monitor, contains information about programming and projects such as the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program.
- Regular presentations concerning the wise use and value of boreal peatlands are offered to the public and to universities from experts at Memorial University.
- The mandate of the Comité ZIP of lac Saint-Pierre is to raise user awareness of the importance of wetlands. For example, as part of Water Month 2023, the Comité ZIP of lac Saint-Pierre produced a StoryMap on the

theme of wetlands. This interactive map presents the different types of wetlands found on the territory, the importance of their role, the threats they face and the importance of taking action to contribute to their conservation.

- Nature Conservancy of Canada actively promotes wetland conservation through their Conservation Engagement team, Conservation Volunteers program, Nature Talks series, Conservation Interns program, and Communications activities, including web content, blogs, social media strategies, signage, project announcements, and traditional media stories.
- On an ongoing basis, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) raises awareness of the importance of wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide to people and wildlife. For example, on World Water Day they created a press kit with ready-to-publish articles and images to help media publicize how wetlands are valuable to communities. DUC's print magazine, the Conservator, helps keep existing wetlands supporters informed about current wetland science and conservation issues, and the Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research website highlights their research for technical audiences. Additionally, in 2023, DUC held their first national Duck and Run events across Canada, which saw 550 participants raise more than \$34,000 to support wetland conservation.
- The Canadian Cattle Association lobbies for wetland conservation and informs its members of events, activities and projects. It also presents a national environmental stewardship award each year and, in most cases, wetland conservation plays a large part in the stories of all nominees.
- At the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area (CVWMA), a Canadian Ramsar site, the Kootenay-Columbia Discovery Centre Society continues to deliver educational programs that focus on highlighting the importance and benefits of wetlands to people and wildlife. CVWMA provides regular newsletters that inform people of the importance of wetlands.
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Canada works to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands, and particularly peatlands, for biodiversity, climate, and people, through targeted communications campaigns and engagement with policymakers across Canada.

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

#### 16.9 Additional Information

>>> Many governments (federal, provincial, territorial and municipal), non-governmental organizations, academia and private organizations maintain websites that provide resources and information on Canada's wetlands and Ramsar Sites. Some examples include:

- Internationally important wetlands: Ramsar Convention - Canada.ca (<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/corporate/international-affairs/partnerships-organizations/important-wetlands-ramsar-convention.html>)
- Information about the four Canadian Habitat Joint Ventures that undertake habitat conservation to support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan is available at: <https://nawmp.wetlandnetwork.ca/joint-venture/habitat-joint-ventures/>.
- Birds Canada published Indices of Biotic Conditions based on marsh-breeding bird and frog data collected at coastal wetlands throughout the Great Lakes, including eight Ramsar wetlands, in the State of the Great Lakes reports.
- The British Columbia Waterfowl Society's website provides information to the public about their sanctuary and its ecosystem values. This also includes their quarterly newsletter "Marshnotes". This information can be found at [reifeldbirds sanctuary.com](http://reifeldbirds sanctuary.com).
- Multiple universities (Waterloo, Memorial and Laval) publish their research findings through their websites as well as through online journals. Université Laval's Line Rochefort participated in a documentary on the Secrets of the Peatlands and for the CBC French program: Découvertes which aired March 3rd, 2023.
- Nature Conservancy of Canada's website and social media channels frequently feature property announcements, restoration work, partnerships and stewardship updates. These updates can be found on the Stories from the Field section of their website as well as their Field Work Fridays series on social media.
- Wetland initiatives and data collection carried out by the government of British Columbia are made published through the Ecological Reports Catalogue, the Environmental Information Resources System for Environmental Protection, and the Environmental Information Resources System for Biodiversity.
- Some Ducks Unlimited Canada-owned properties are open to the public and their locations are publicly available at <http://maps.ducks.ca/ducknavigator/>. DUC also regularly shares information about projects through its website, print magazine, annual reports, responses to requests from the public, etc. DUC is also working with ECCC to have geospatial data on conserved wetlands included in the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD).
- Pathways Alliance's information on planning, disturbance, monitoring and reclamation is publicly available either through regulated processes or on company websites. Results are reported in journal articles as well as research reports.
- In Saskatchewan, the Ramsar sites are identified on the HABISask website maintained by Ministry of Environment alongside other special designations (Representative Area Network lands, WHSRN sites, etc).
- National Wildlife Areas and National Parks publish information on the status of wetlands within their

boundaries.

## 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}

☒ A=Yes

### 17.1 Additional information

>>> Global Affairs Canada and its partners support various initiatives that directly and indirectly relate to wetland conservation and management in developing countries. For example:

- Canada is the sixth-largest donor to the Global Environment Facility and is providing CAD \$228.79 million in core funding for the 2018-2022 period.
- Canada has also committed CAD \$65 million to support the World Bank's PROBLUE Fund, which supports the sustainable development of marine and coastal resources in healthy oceans.
- Canada is currently funding and supporting a "Natural Infrastructure for Water Security Project" in Peru. This project aims to promote the conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of natural ecosystems, or "natural infrastructure", to improve Peru's water security and climate risk resilience. The project works to build alliances with public and private actors to facilitate investments in natural infrastructure projects that improve nature's ability to capture, filter, store and deliver water.
- Another supported project is "Women as Biodiversity & Climate-Resilience Guardians in Wetland/Peatland Landscapes", in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. This project aims to enhance the empowerment of women, including women of Indigenous heritage, to conserve highland wetland/peatland ecosystems for increased climate resilience. As a regional project, it will contribute to increased conservation of buffer zones around three established protected areas (RAMSAR sites), the total of which span 80,000+ hectares. The project will increase the adoption of Nature-based Climate Solutions (NbCS) for climate change adaptation by women to conserve highland wetland/peatland ecosystems, inspired by Canada's Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) and Indigenous Guardians framework. It will also enhance the agency of women to advocate for women-led, conflict sensitive NbCS in national and regional governance structures.

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}

☒ A=Yes

### 17.2 Additional information

>>> Global Affairs Canada's international development assistance initiatives undergo an environmental analysis through their mandatory Environmental Integration Process. Through this process, environmental experts examine the level of environmental risk for each initiative and recommend mitigation measures to lower this risk. In addition, the experts propose actions to capitalize on the initiative's potential opportunities for achieving environmental results.

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

### 17.4 Additional information

If "yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities.

>>> In 2023, Canada provided \$50,000 to support the travel for contracting party delegates from developing

countries and economies in transition to participate in the COP14 meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands.

In 2024 Canada provided \$53,358 (CAD) in funding toward the Ramsar project titled: Women and Wetlands: Advancing gender equality and empowerment by documenting the stories of women in wetlands to raise awareness and inform the design of meaningful interventions. Funding was instrumental to launching and publishing the inaugural cohort of "12 Women Changemakers in the World of Wetlands".

In 2024 Canada also provided \$23,650 (CAD) in funding towards the Ramsar project titled: A scoping study to enhance youth engagement in the decision-making processes of the Convention on Wetlands. This project was ultimately cancelled by the Ramsar Secretariat.

## 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}

☒ B=No

### 18.1 Additional information

>>> Canada does not have a National Ramsar Committee, however, the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) acts as a national wetland committee and is comprised of federal, provincial, territorial and non-governmental organization representatives.

National focal points of MEAs including Ramsar, as well as other international processes such as IPBES, participate in Canadian federal communities of practice and information exchange fora, to promote policy coherence and synergies across international processes

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

### 18.2 Additional information

>>> Canada has a number of mechanisms at the federal level to ensure there is collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the national focal points of other UN, global and regional bodies. These mechanisms include coordination groups among senior management and interdepartmental fora. Global Affairs Canada and the International Affairs Branch within Environment and Climate Change Canada facilitate environmental policy development, integration and coordination across global organizations.

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}

☒ A=Yes

### 18.4 Additional information

>>> Under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan there are regional networks between Canadian, United States and Mexican partners for knowledge sharing specifically related to wetlands that support waterfowl.

Canada is a member of the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum for cooperation, coordination and interaction among Arctic States with involvement of Indigenous communities.

The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network facilitates communication and sharing of technical resources among a network of sites in North and South America. The Canadian Shorebird National Working Group represents Canada on the Network.

Ducks Unlimited Canada is involved in twinning and knowledge sharing internationally. For example, Oak Hammock Marsh Ramsar Site is linked as a sister marsh with a similar wetland in Israel.

Additionally, Hay-Zama Lakes has been twinned with Dalai Lake in Mongolia, China.

The Agricultural Wetland Research Network through the International Institute for Sustainable Development has research and information sharing partnerships with institutions in Israel, Paraguay and Mexico.

There are also numerous knowledge-sharing networks which exist across various organizations and academia. Examples include:

- The International Joint Commission is a binational organization between the Canada and US, reporting on issues of concerns in transboundary waters including wetland characterization projects in the Great Lakes Basin.

- Parks Canada partners with the United States and Mexico to study ecosystem carbon in coastal salt marsh habitats.

- Numerous Canadian and American partners from academia, NGOs, and government agencies, collaborate to deliver the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program.

- Multiple Canadian universities (Memorial, Waterloo, Laval) work with universities abroad in Sweden, China and the USA to carry out wetland-related research as well as participating on international organizations such

as the Global Peatland Initiative (UNEP).

- Laval University hosted the international RE3 Conference (Reclaim, Restore, Rewild) in June 2023, led by Line Rochefort, Canada's STRP NFP. This conference brought together members of 4 chapters of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), the National Conference of the Canadian Land Reclamation Association (CLRA), the International Peatland Society and the International Society for Horticultural Science. Wetlands and wetland restoration were themes strongly represented within this event.

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

☒ A=Yes

##### 18.5 Additional information

>>> Canada and the United States created the International Joint Commission because they recognized that each country is affected by the other's actions in lake and river systems along the border. The two countries cooperate to manage these waters and to protect them for the benefit of today's citizens and future generations. Most transboundary waters have been identified (<https://www.ijc.org/en/transboundary-waters>).

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

[International Joint Commission](#)

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

☒ A=Yes

##### 18.6 Additional information

>>> North American Waterfowl Management Plan goals are established by Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Four Canadian Habitat Joint Ventures integrate planning, science, governance, partnerships, and management to achieve North American Waterfowl Management Plan goals in Canada. A science-based implementation plan is created to address local, regional and continental goals for each Joint Venture. Joint Venture partners effectively cooperate to research, monitor and evaluate waterfowl populations, and deliver habitat conservation programs at a regional level. This partnership also cooperatively manages shared wetlands.

There are many other cooperative/inter-jurisdictional wetland management bodies that exist:

- The International Joint Commission (IJC) approves projects that affect water levels and flows in Canada and the US and investigate transboundary issues/recommend solutions. The IJC's recommendations and decisions consider the needs of a wide range of water uses, including coastal wetland health.
- The Yukon First Nations Land Claim agreements are in place for the majority of the Yukon, and guide wetland management along with interprovincial (B.C., Alberta, NWT) and international agreements with the United States.

#### 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

>>> The North American Waterfowl Management Plan is an international partnership between Canada, the United States and Mexico with the goal of conserving and protecting wetland and upland habitats and associated waterfowl populations. Canada implements the plan through four regional Habitat Joint Ventures made up of a variety of cooperative public and private partners. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan is being updated, defining goals and measurable objectives for waterfowl populations, habitat and people.

Canadian governments are active in North American Flyway Councils. For example, the Manitoba Wildlife Branch is a member of the Mississippi Flyway Council. The Mississippi Flyway Council is a coalition of 14 states and three Canadian provinces that works in conjunction with the respective federal governments to manage migratory birds and their habitats in North America. Flyway states and provinces, cooperating with various federal agencies and non-governmental partners, deliver many of the conservation programs for migratory birds in a significant portion of the United States. Manitoba has active representatives on both the Game Bird and Non-Game Technical sections. The Northwest Territories, as well as Canadian provinces Alberta and Saskatchewan, are members of the Central Flyway Council, along with 10 states from the United States of America.

Ontario Parks participates in the binational Great Lakes Colonial Waterbird Working Group.

## 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

19.1 Additional information

>>> No assessment of national or local training needs for the implementation of the Convention has been made. Networks are in place to share information through continued communication with Ramsar Site managers and the Administrative Authority. Opportunities also exist for information sharing through the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada) and the Canadian Wetlands Roundtable.

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ C=Partially

19.3 Additional information

>>> Wetland conservation and wise use issues are included in provincial and territorial formal education programs to varying degrees.

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ X=Unknown

b) at other wetlands

☒ X=Unknown

19.4 Additional information

>>> a) at Ramsar Sites

No official training opportunities were reported for the past 3 years at Ramsar Sites nor was there a request for training opportunities from the Site managers.

However, many Ramsar site managers have access to training through their organizations. For example, Parks Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada provide training opportunities for all employees through individual learning and development plans.

b) at other wetlands

No official training opportunities or information for wetland site managers were reported.

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

☒ A=Yes

19.5 Additional information

>>> The preparation of the 3-year Ramsar Report provides a mechanism to evaluate the progress among government agencies, non-government organizations and others regarding the status of wetland conservation and management in Canada.

