



RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

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

Section 1: Institutional Information

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

Name of Contracting Party

The completed National Report **must be accompanied by a letter** in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP15 National Report. It can be attached to this question using the "Manage documents" function (blue symbol below)

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

>>> Estonian Ministry of Climate, Biodiversity Conservation Department

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

National Report Submission Estonia.pdf - Estonian National Report Submission Letter

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

>>> Estonian Ministry of Climate, Biodiversity Conservation Department

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

>>> Mr Timo Kark

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Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title

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

Name and title

>>> Mrs Elo Rospel, environmental education specialist

Name of organisation

>>> Estonian Environmental Board

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

Name and title

>>> Ms Marika Kose, member of the board

Name of organisation

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Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

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

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

1)

>>> 1) In 2024 Estonian Fund For Nature got the Natura 2000 award for the project "Conservation and restoration of mire habitats" project was implemented in 2015-2021.

2)

>>> 2) Horizon 2000 project "waterLANDS" 2021-2026, a large scale wetland restoration with massive CEPA activities in 3 mires in Estonia. 3500 ha restored. implemented by University of Tartu.

3)

>>> 3) Paludiculture in Baltics, implemented by Estonian Fund For Nature.

4) large scale mire restoration by Estonian Forest Management Centre, including Ramsar sites.

4)

>>> 5) Updating the Action Plan for Mires.

6) LIFE IP project "ForEst&FarmLand 2020-2029, run by the Ministry of Climate. Wet forest action plan, restoration of coastal meadows, restoration of small waterbodies.

5)

>>> 7) Environmental Agency - ELME project for assessing the ecosystem services.

8) Wetland conferences: 1-2.02.2022 in Tartu, "Nature conservation and wetlands". 1-2.02.2024 in Tallinn "The sea and wetlands"

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

1)

>>> Land ownership makes restoration planning and implementing sometimes difficult. All areas, included in Ramsar sites, protected areas and Natura 2000 areas what are on state land have been planned or in planning process for restoration but private lands have been mainly out of restoration planning and implementing. The understanding of society (landowners) about wetland restoration is not sufficient.

2)

>>> EU CAP and policies about peaty soils are not always relevant in the terms of carbon sequestration.

3)

>>> Financing of activities is mainly project-based

4)

>>> Cross-sectoral cooperation in wetland related issues is not always sufficient enough.

5)

>>> Understanding and valuation of wetland ecosystem services and achieving wise use of all wetlands of the country is an ongoing challenge

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

1)

>>> Implementation of the strategic documents and management plans: ongoing conservation, maintenance and restoration of wetlands

2)

>>> Improvement of the cross-sectorial cooperation

3)

>>> Identifying the bottlenecks of the communication and understanding with the public and landowners to get positive response and participation in wetland restoration (especially mire restoration).

4)

>>> To secure funding of management and restoration activities in Ramsar sites.

5)

>>> Finalising the Action Plan for Wet Forests, starting the successful implementation of the Action Plan.

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

>>> We are satisfied with current activities and information flow

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)?

>>> We are satisfied with current assistance.

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.

>>> We have no gender inequality in wetland research, decision-making and wetland conservation activities. All genders are equally involved and welcome to all wetland-related activities and processes.

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

>>> We have no gender inequality in wetland research, decision-making and wetland conservation activities. All genders are equally involved and welcome to all wetland-related activities and processes. There is no need for change.

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

>>> We have no gender inequality in wetland research, decision-making and wetland conservation activities. All genders are equally involved and welcome to all wetland-related activities and processes. In Estonia women and men have been always equally participating in wetland issues.

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

>>> There is no need for such documents in Estonia. Our Constitution is guaranteeing the equality.

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).

>>> We have strong network of non-formal nature education centres, which provide large number of wetland-related programs, accessible to all age groups. Ministry of Climate has provided opportunity to apply for free programs and transport for every school and kindergarten class funded by Estonian Environmental Investment Centre.

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

>>> Estonian Wetland Society, Estonian Ornithological Society, Environmental Board, State Forest Management Centre webpage, Estonian Fund For Nature webpage

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

h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
i) National policies on energy and mining	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
j) National policies on tourism	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
k) National policies on urban development	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
l) National policies on infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
p) National policies on wastewater management and water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input 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

>>> All development plans and strategies must follow SDGs to environment, including wetlands.

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}

☒ A=Yes

2.1 Additional Information

>>> Estonia is implementing the EU Water Framework Directive. River basin management plans (for 3 districts) are established (2009-2015; 2015-2021; 2022-2027) preparation for next period 2028-2033 is started). The methodology for integrating wetlands in the Water Framework Directive has been worked out (2011).

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

☒ A=Yes

2.2 Additional Information

>>> Wetlands with restoration plans, scientific research for management planning and monitoring

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?

☒ O=No change

2.3 Additional Information

>>> Estonia is implementing the EU Water Framework Directive. River basin management plans (for 3 districts) are established (2009-2015; 2015-2021; 2022-2027) preparation for next period 2028-2033 is started). The methodology for integrating wetlands in the Water Framework Directive has been worked out (2011).

2.4 Have the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12) been used/applied in decision-making processes? {2.3}

☒ A=Yes

2.4 Additional Information

>>> Water Framework Directive is followed.

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

>>> Estonia is implementing the EU Water Framework Directive. River basin management plans (for 3 districts) are established (2009-2015; 2015-2021; 2022-2027) preparation for next period 2028-2033 is started). The methodology for integrating wetlands in the Water Framework Directive has been worked out (2011).

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

☒ A=Yes

2.6 Additional Information

>>> There is existing document "Guide to mitigate and compensate negative impacts of land improvement systems", compiled by scientists of Tartu University in 2023.

Target 3

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

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

3.1 Has your country put in place policies, including incentives, guidelines or other instruments to encourage the private sector to apply the wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise

use of wetlands) in activities and investments related to wetlands? {3.1}

☒ A=Yes

3.1 Additional Information

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

>>> The private sector is encouraged to apply the wise use principle and guidance in activities and investments related to wetlands.

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

Please select only one per square.

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

3.2 Additional information

>>> The private sector undertaken any activities or actions for the conservation, wise use, and management.

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).

>>> Different schemes of environmental subsidies based on EU funds are in place in Estonia which aim in supporting actions for biodiversity. Subsidies for management of grasslands cover the various costs of management and restoration. Value-based incentives are under design. Environmental Investment Center, an subordinate institution of Ministry of Climate, provides one-off supports, based on revenues of environmental fees, taxes and also using EU Cohesion Fund, for restoration projects of habitats, mainly grasslands, thus having remarkable positive impact on biodiversity. Local municipalities, NGOs, farmers can apply for that. These subsidy schemes have significant economic contribution to local communities.

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.

>>> Subsidies for reconstruction of existing forest drainage ditches or creation of new drainage systems may have local hazardous impacts to wet habitats, e.g. when the drainage is implemented in vicinity of a protected area or in the limited management zone of a protected area.

As the hydroenergy production has a very small potential in Estonia, it is still considered as a part of renewable energy that is supported by renewable energy state subsidy. Constructions of new hydroenergy stations are prohibited by law in protected areas, but subsidies for renewable energy can be considered as a problem when existing dams and/or hydroenergy stations impacts to biodiversity and construction of fish passage necessity are assessed in environmental impact report.

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

>>> Information is permanently gathered and maintained in environmental database (EELIS).

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

>>> Estonia is implementing Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.

"Action Plan for Income Paths of Alien Species 2020-2025" has been compiled.

Comprehensive legislation exists banning release of all alien species to all habitats.

For more aggressive species like *Campylopus introflexus* and all alien crayfish there are a monitoring programs.

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

☒ E=# species

>>> 2

4.3 Additional Information

>>> Projects are carried out to eradicate alien species, e.g. alien hogweed species are being eradicated since 2005 both on private and state land. The work of volunteers and experiments of using the labour of community service offenders to eradicate Himalayan balsam have also been carried out, etc

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

☒ A=Yes

4.4 Additional Information

>>> There is governmental program for eradication *Heracleum sosnowskyi*, *H. persicum*, *H. mantegazzianum* on all known colonies both private and public land since 2007. Signal crayfish eradication since discovery 2008, control programs have been effective.

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

>>> The National Programme on the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention consists a list of suitable areas for the further designation.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 17

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 17

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 17

5.2 – 5.4 Additional information

>>> All 17 Ramsar sites have an up-to date management plan designed and approved and being implemented. In Estonia areas designated as Ramsar sites are nationally protected under the terms of the Nature Conservation Act as protected areas or limited-conservation areas or combination of these. According to the Act for the purpose of organising the protection management plans should be drawn up. Drafting and implementing of these plans is the responsibility of the Environmental Board.

5.5 Have all Ramsar Sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (through formal management plans where they exist or otherwise through existing actions for appropriate wetland management)? {5.6}

If “yes”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

If “partially”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

If “planned”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

☒ A=Yes

>>> 17

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.

>>> During management planning process status of habitats and species, influencing factors and drivers are analysed. Activities and conservation measures listed in previous management plan are assessed. All management plans in force include the section of management effectiveness assessment (indicators and criteria). Assessment is carried out on the basis of inventories and monitoring results.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 4

5.6 Additional information

>>> Matsalu 104

Alam-Pedja 905

Soomaa 912

Vilsandi 913

Muraka 909 & Agusalu 1999

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 17

5.7 Additional information

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

>>> It is obligatory part of Management Plan.

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.

>>> In Estonia areas designated as Ramsar sites are nationally protected under the terms of the Nature Conservation Act as protected areas or limited-conservation areas or combination of these. RIS of two Ramsar sites - Hiiumaa Islets and Käina bay (908) and Puhtu-Laelatu-Nehatu (911) are combination of these areas but there have been changes in borders of protected areas and surrounding limited-conservation areas. Designing changes into the relevant juridical documentation is taking some time. That does not mean any changes in the ecological character of these areas, Ramsar areas are proposed in borders of nationally protected and designated areas and their ecological condition has not changed.

Target 7

Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed {2.6.}.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 3, 4 and 10]

7.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {7.1}

☒ A=Yes

7.1 Additional information

If “Yes”, please provide the source links or upload the source documents here describing the mechanisms established
>>> A national environmental monitoring system (an environmental monitoring programme with 12 sub-programmes) has been promoted. Environmental Agency working under the Ministry of Climate (Administrative Authority) is responsible for implementation of the system. The data of the national environmental monitoring are reliable and of high quality. Monitoring is conducted by specialists with high qualification; long data rows ensure an overview of the national status of the environment in many areas, for example, species diversity, water, soil, etc. Monitoring needs for Ramsar sites are fixed in management plans. Ramsar sites are baseline areas for the national environmental monitoring programme. The Estonian Land Board is regularly producing high-resolution aerophotos and LiDAR data, which is a very promising basis for application of the remote sensing technique for mapping and monitoring of wetlands.

7.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {7.2}

☒ O=No Negative Change

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
>>> This has not been a case for Estonia.

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}

☒ A=Yes

8.1 Additional information

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

>>> There is no special comprehensive wetland inventory covering all wetland types carried out in Estonia. Information has been gathered via different inventories since 1950s. Lakes were first inventoried in 1960s and 1970s. Semi-natural wetland habitats - floodplain and coastal grasslands were investigated in 1993-1996. During the project Estonian Wetlands Conservation and Management Strategy in 1997, an inventory of 1,376 wetlands was carried out using unified criteria and a database connected with geographical information system was created. Additional information about wetland habitats (specific inventories, for example the distribution of wetland habitat types, the state and influence of old drainage systems, insect fauna etc.) has been gathered during compilation of management plans for Natura 2000 areas. During the project Estonian Mires Inventory Completion for Maintaining Biodiversity (2008-2011) the inventory was completed. Additional 13,901 areas were studied of which 8,676 were determined as mires and 603 sites including mires as marginal habitats. As a result there is now a total overview about all areas in Estonia covered by mire vegetation.

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

>>> No special update project. Information concerning occurrence and status of wetland habitats has been updated currently on the basis of research and monitoring projects and added to the environmental database.

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ B=Irregularly ≥ 7 years

8.3 Additional information

>>> No special update project. Information concerning occurrence and status of wetland habitats has been updated currently on the basis of research and monitoring projects and added to the environmental database.

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?

>>> Estonian Nature Information System (EELIS) operated by the Estonian Environmental Agency is a working tool for all environmental and planning specialists. For public, data are available on web page Keskkonnaportaal: <https://keskkonnaportaal.ee> which gathers all important databases and environmental information.

Environmental Monitoring System KESE <https://keskkonnaportaal.ee/et/keskkonnaseire-infosusteem-kese>

If data cannot be found on web page (for example sensitive data of strongly protected species etc), it is possible to send request for information to the Environmental Agency.

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

>>> Estonian Nature Information System (EELIS) operated by the Estonian Environmental Agency is a working tool for all environmental and planning specialists. For public, data are available on web page:

Keskkonnaportaal <https://keskkonnaportaal.ee/> which gathers all important databased and environmental information.

Environmental Monitoring System KESE <https://keskkonnaportaal.ee/et/keskkonnaseire-infosusteem-kese>

If data cannot be found on web page (for example sensitive data of strongly protected species etc), it is possible to send request for information to the Environmental Agency.

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

☒ E=# km²

>>> 13800

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km ²)
A -- Permanent shallow marine waters	7000
B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds	0
C -- Coral reefs	0
D -- Rocky marine shores	2
E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores	17
F -- Estuarine waters	57
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	350
Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs	0
H -- Intertidal marshes	174
I -- Intertidal forested wetlands	0
J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons	18

K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons	30
Zk(a) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	0

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km2)

>>> 7650

8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
L -- Permanent inland deltas	0
M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls	124
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks	0
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes	2100
P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes	0
Q -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes	0
R -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats	0
Sp -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	0
Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	0
Tp -- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools	8
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils	59
U -- Non-forested peatlands	2200
Va -- Alpine wetlands	0
Vt -- Tundra wetlands	0
W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands	23
Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	45
Xp -- Forested peatlands	800
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.	9

Zg -- Geothermal wetlands	0
Zk(b) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	1

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

>>> 5360

8.6 Human-made wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
1 -- Aquaculture ponds.	0
2 -- Ponds	57
3 -- Irrigated land	0
4 -- Seasonally flooded agricultural land	0
5 -- Salt exploitation sites	0
6 -- Water storage areas	5
7 -- Excavations	30
8 -- Wastewater treatment areas	0
9 -- Canals and drainage channels, ditches	700
Zk(c) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	0

8.6 Human-made wetlands total (km2)

>>> 800

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

8.8 Additional Information

>>> Status improved.

Maintenance and restoration activities have been implemented and are going on according management plans.

b) Wetlands generally

Status improved.

Estonia is still rich in wetlands, both in terms of their total area and the great variety of habitats. There is a legislative and administrative framework in place that supports the sustainable use and conservation of wetlands. The main threats affecting wetlands are addressed in several strategies. A significant proportion of preserved valuable wetlands are legally protected and have been included in the integral and united system of protected areas. 27% of marine area is under protection. Estonian green infrastructure comprises 55% of Estonia's mainland area. The network has been implemented in the county-wide spatial plans and comprehensive plans according to the Planning Act. Restoration and maintenance activities have been implemented and are currently in work.

8.9 What are your main needs in developing or updating an NWI to support 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 type="checkbox"/>
b) Wetland delineation methods and approaches	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
i) Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Others	<input type="checkbox"/>

8.9 Additional Information

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

>>> Lack of finances and human resources. Estonia is a very small country, with population of 1,2 million inhabitants.

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.

	Ye s
a) Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Relevant skills	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Data systems and management	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>

8.10 Additional Information

>>> Lack of finances and human resources. Estonia is a very small country, with population of 1,2 million inhabitants.

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

>>> Estonia is implementing EU directives and strategic plans, also the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (updated in 2021). Different national strategies, development and action plans are directly or indirectly concerned with wise use of wetlands. In 2023 new Ministry of Climate was established covering energy, transportation, buildings, shipping, and environmental protection.

Main related documents:

The National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP 2030; a notification submitted to the European Commission in 2019).

Environment Action Plan 2030 (compilation initiated in 2021, EIA adopted in 2023).

Agriculture and Fisheries Development Plan 2030 (adopted 2021) binding into a whole agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, food industry and development trends of rural and coastal areas.

The Forestry Development Plan 2030

Environmental education and awareness action plan 2023-2025.

Estonian Research and Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy 2021-2035.

Transport and Mobility Development Plan 2021-2035

Tourism Strategy for 2022-2025.

River basin management plans for 2022-2027

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

9.2 Additional information

>>> Legal norms, regulating protection of wetlands, have been remarkably amended in connection with the membership in European Union (2004). Water Law has been updated several times (last amendments 2024), Nature Conservation Law and Forest Law amendments are in process, a new Climate Law is being elaborated.

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

>>> Estonia is implementing the EU Water Framework Directive. River basin management plans (for 3 districts) are established (2009-2015; 2015-2021; 2022-2027, the preparation for next period 2028-2033 is started). The methodology for integrating wetlands in the Water Framework Directive has been worked out (2011).

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

>>> All management plans and river basin management plans include CEPA part. The preparation process of plans is open for public. People can follow the drafting process of plans (and other legal documents) in web using the special governmental information system of draft documents (eelnoud.valitsus.ee). They can comment the documents and participate in public consultations.

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

>>> Estonia is implementing EU directives. The role of wetlands in mitigating and adapting climate change is taken into account in The Baselines for Estonian Climate Policy 2050 (adopted Estonian Parliament in 2017). A notification on The National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP 2030) was submitted to the European Commission in 2019. Draft update of Estonia's National Energy and Climate Plan for 2030 was approved by the Government of the republic of Estonia in 2023.

In 2023 new Ministry of Climate was formed covering energy, transportation, buildings, shipping, and environmental protection. In may 2024 The Ministry of Climate announced the content of the Climate Resilient Economy Act and the main changes that will result from it. The emphasis is on vigorous growth of clean energy production, preservation of nature and birth of new industries.

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

9.7 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

>>> Water Act with its secondary decrees implements EU Nitrates Directive and Water Framework Directive in Estonia. The act sets down main water protection rules for agriculture. River basin management plans and Nitrates Action Program are launched according to Water Act.

Nitrates Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) is determined taking into account soil and ground conditions, ground and surface water vulnerability as well as intensity of agriculture. Total area of the NVZ is 3250 km² which is 7,5 % of the total state land area.

Ongoing LIFE IP project ForEst&FarmLand ("Comprehensive management of forest and farming landscapes to improve the conservation status of Natura 2000 habitats and species"; 2020-2029) includes restoration of coastal meadow areas and also restoration of 100 amphibian breeding small water bodies at areas adjacent to intensively managed agricultural landscapes. Homepage <https://www.loodusrikaseesti.ee/en>

LIFE19 NAT/EE/001006 LIFE CONNECTING MEADOWS "Restoring and connecting semi-natural meadow habitats on Muhu island" (2020-2025). The main objective is to restore 200 ha seminatural grassland habitats, incl coastal meadows. One of the aims is to create an online communication platform for stakeholders (landowners, farmers, conservationists, government officials) to support further management of valuable habitats.

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

>>> Relevant research activities are carried out mainly by the researchers of Tartu University (Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, Estonian Marine Institute), Estonian University of Life Sciences and Tallinn University.

In 2024 14th European Conference on Ecological Restoration "Bridging Science , Practice and Policy of Nature Restoration" was held in Tartu SERE Conference 2024 (sere2024.org). The organisation of the conference was led by Landscape Biodiversity Workgroup at the University of Tartu (670 participants, 47 countries).

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}

☒ A=Yes

9.9 Additional information

>>> Pääsküla mire in periurban area of Tallinn, is protected and restored, there is also a nature trail and information boards. Ropka-lhaste floodplains in periurban area of Tartu are protected and restoration activities carried out. Pärnu has urban coastal meadows, restored by LIFE project CITYCOWS.

LIFE21-NAT-EE-urbanLIFEcircles/101074453 2022-2027 ("Introducing adaptive community-based biodiversity management in urban areas for improved connectivity and ecosystem health") urbanLIFEcircles is complemented in Tartu city. Partners are Tartu, Riga and Aarhus. Among all activities, wetland conservation is the topic.

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

☒ A=Yes

9.10 Additional information

>>> Many small wetlands are protected at bigger conservation areas. In 2020 LIFE IP project ForEst&FarmLand ("Comprehensive management of forest and farming landscapes to improve the conservation status of Natura 2000 habitats and species" (2020-2029) was launched to protect and restore Estonian landscapes and ecosystems and to improve the condition of the species and habitats in Estonian forests and agricultural lands. One of the tasks is to restore 100 amphibian breeding sites. In 2021-2024 already 75 small water bodies have been restored.

Target 10

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

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

☒ C1= Partially

10.1 Additional Information

>>> Cultural aspects form a part of management plans

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

>>> This forms a part of management planning

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}

☒ A=Yes

10.3 Additional information

>>> This forms a part of management planning

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.

>>> This forms a part of management planning. We are implementing EUROPARC sustainable tourism criteria and considering local populations.

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

☒ A=Yes

10.5 Additional information

>>> In Soomaa NP the dugout canoe is in UNESCO Cultural Heritage list, the culture is documented and widely communicated.

Target 11

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

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

☒ A=Yes

11.1 Additional information

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

>>> In the course of the project ELME ("Establishment of tools for the assessment and prognosis of the biodiversity status integrated with social-economy and climate change as well as for better accessibility to relevant data" (2016-2023) led by the Environmental Agency, a national system for mapping and evaluating ecosystem services, as well as for implementing the concept in spatial and strategic planning, and for evaluating and budgeting environmental influences was developed.

Web page launched Avaleht | loodusveeb <https://loodusveeb.ee/en>

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

☒ Y=Not Relevant

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

>>> Projects have been including topics of environmental education

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

☒ A=Yes

11.4 Additional information

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

>>> Socio-economic values form a part of management plans of Ramsar sites and other protected areas

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

>>> Cultural values are fixed in management plans of Ramsar sites and other protected areas.

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

>>> For mire habitats the targets for restoration were fixed in the Action Plan for Protected Mires (2016-2023). Next Action Plan for Mires (2023-2030) with new targets is being completed in 2024. For semi-natural wetland habitats (incl floodplain and coastal meadows) priority sites are fixed in the Action Plan for Semi-natural Grasslands (updated in 2020).
Updated spawning grounds programme (up to 2034) focuses on opening up migration routes of fish (elimination of dams). Activities have been evaluated on 200 water bodies and 200 dams. High priority sites belong to work list of RMK.

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

>>> For mire habitats the priority sites for restoration were fixed in the Action Plan for Protected Mires (2016-2023). Next Action Plan for Mires (2023-2030) with priorities list is drafted. For semi-natural wetland habitats (incl floodplain and coastal meadows) priority sites are fixed in the Action Plan for Semi-natural Grasslands (updated in 2020).
Updated spawning grounds programme (up to 2034) focuses on opening up migration routes of fish (elimination of dams). Activities have been evaluated on 200 water bodies and 200 dams. High priority sites belong to work list of RMK.

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

☒ A=Yes

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

	Restoration planned m2 or km2	Under restoration	Total Restored
Marine/Coastal	124		124
Inland	323	80	403
Human-made			

12.3 Additional information

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

>>> Estonian Nature Conservation Development Plan (adopted at 2012) stipulated the aim to restore at least 10 000 ha of valuable mire habitats to 2020. 2010-2015 were restored ca 1 900 ha; 2016-2023 period were restored ca 19 500 ha, altogether over 21 000 ha mire habitats. From 2024 onwards ca 8000 ha have got or will get restoration plans. Restoration activities are carried out mainly with the funding of international funds (Cohesion Fund, LIFE). Also significant progress has been made with restoration of semi-natural grasslands (floodplain and coastal meadows). 2020. were under restoration and management 12 420 ha coastal meadows, 9220 ha floodplains and 2100 ha paludified grasslands.

Several LIFE projects and other restoration projects have been carried out or ongoing to restore water regime of different mire habitats. For example in total 8320 ha of different mire habitats are restored by Cohesion Fund projects (RMK).

As a result of Estonian Fund for Nature LIFE project ‘Conservation and Restoration of Mire Habitats’ (2015-2021) 7900 ha of mire habitats were restored by Estonian Fund for Nature (elfond.ee). In 2021 Handbook, available both in English ([link](#)) and Estonian was published based on experiences from the project. In 2024 the project won the European The best Natura 2000 Conservation on land project award.

Ongoing projects: WaterLANDS project (2021-2026) includes restoration of several drained wetlands. LIFE project "Implementation of national climate change adaptation activities in Estonia" LIFE21-IPC-EE-LIFE-SIP AdaptEst/101069566 (2023-2032) includes restoration of mires in Alam-Pedja Ramsar site. Restoration of edges of Leidisoo mire (2022-2026). Working area ca 800 hectares. Project is financed by PlanBe, supervised by Michael Succowi foundation technical planning and implementation is by RMK. Efforts to restore longitudinal connectivity in Estonian rivers have primarily focused on barrier removal. Currently, 148 barriers have been addressed in terms of fish migration obstacles, with fishways constructed for 93 barriers and 55 barriers removed. Fish migration and spawning routes are opened in Saunja bay (Haapsalu-Noarootsi Ramsar site)

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}

☒ A=Yes

12.4 Additional Information

If "yes" or "partially", please indicate the progress in implementation

>>> Estonian peatlands are now the focus of diverse restoration efforts. Action plan for Protected Mires 2016-2023 is implemented, Action plan for Mires 2024-2030 drafted. Additionally to restoration activities regulatory mechanisms are established which result in avoiding the further degradation of habitats. Regulation of the Minister of Environment was adopted in 2016 (updated and stricted in 2024) which stipulates that a permit for peat extraction may be applied only for a peat area agreed in a list of areas already degraded and suitable for extraction.

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
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13.1 Additional Information

>>> Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act (adopted in 2005, recent amendments in 2024) regulates environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the development projects, which may have significant environmental impact. The Act provides the cases when environmental impact shall be assessed, the rules of procedure of EIA and the requirements of the content of reports.

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

>>> Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act (adopted in 2005, recent amendments in 2024) regulates strategic impact assessment (SEA), which is carried out to strategic planning documents (development plans and spatial plans). The Act provides the rules of procedure of SEA and the requirements of the content of reports.

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

☒ A=Yes

13.3 Additional information

>>> Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act (adopted in 2005, recent amendments in 2024) regulates environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the development projects, which may have significant environmental impact. The Act provides the cases when environmental impact shall be assessed, the rules of procedure of EIA and the requirements of the content of reports.

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}

☒ A=Yes

15.1 Additional information

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

>>> NorBalWet

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

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

>>> There is no special Action Plan for wetland CEPA. Wetland CEPA tasks and activities are included into different strategical documents and work plans of the Environmental Board. The Board has created about 100 different programs (many of them introducing wetlands) which are supportive to various school subjects. Wetland CEPA issues are included in management plans of protected areas and river basin district plans and are part of various wetland projects.

Environmental education and awareness action plan 2023-2025 supports the implementation of different measures to raise environmental awareness in the school and pre-school child care institutions.

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

>>> 9

b) at other wetlands

☒ E=# centres

>>> 12

16.2 Additional information

>>> Estonia is covered with the network of nature centres operated by different institutions, mainly by State Forest Management Centre (RMK). Nature centres with a local nature exhibition and introduction material to the areas key features have been established at several Ramsar sites: Alam-Pedja, Endla, Matsalu, Soomaa, Vilsandi and Peipsiveere. However, nearly all the other nature centres provide information on wetland habitats and species characteristic for certain region. Additionally there are also some nature schools operated by non-profit groups (for example Palupõhja Nature School at Alam-Pedja and Silma Õpikoda at Haapsalu-Noarootsi). Ramsar areas:

1. Endla (Tooma centre, Environmental Board)
2. Haapsalu-Noarootsi (private initiative Silma Õpikoda, cooperation agreement with Environmental Board)
3. Matsalu visitor centre (RMK)
4. Muraka and Agusalu - Environmental Board centre in Iisaku and RMK Centre in Kauksi
5. Soomaa visitor centre RMK
6. Vilsandi visitor centre RMK
7. Peipsiveere - the centre run by local municipality
9. Alam-Pedja - Palupõhja Nature School (NGO)
10. Luitemaa - RMK Kabli Nature Centre

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

16.3 Additional information

>>> Decisions are made mainly via regional and local planning which are public processes. When drawing up management plans for protected areas the Environmental Board has to cooperate closely with local authorities and stakeholders.

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

☒ A=Yes

16.4 Additional information

>>> The Estonian Ramsar Committee was founded as an advisory body of the Ministry of Environment on Ramsar issues. Committee meets irregularly.

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

☒ Y=Not Relevant

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

16.6 Additional information

>>> Information about Ramsar is communicated along with other nature and wetland conservation information to these bodies. Therefore there are no specific mechanisms.

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 events (seminars, workshops, trips etc) have been organized by Environmental Board, Estonian Wetland Society and Estonian Fund for Nature every year. Since 2016 every second year an International Wetland day has been celebrated with special conference, organised by Estonian Fund for Nature together with partners, where all organizations, related with theme on wetlands, participate. In 2024 "The Sea and the Mire".

The Estonian Fund for Nature has prepared a 9-episode series of educational films, "(Ad)mire!", which introduces different aspects of mires in a playful manner. The films are available with Estonian, English, and Russian subtitles <https://soo.elfond.ee/filmid/>

In 2023 conference of State Forest Centre "The day of water and mire" „Soode taastamine. Teooriast praktikasse" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSxkMYdxzc>) ja "Paisud. Paised Eesti jõgedel" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_jlU8gTyVvk)

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

>>> Many events (seminars, workshops, trips etc) have been organized by Environmental Board, Estonian Wetland Society and Estonian Fund for Nature every year. Since 2016 every second year an International Wetland day has been celebrated with special conference, organised by Estonian Fund for Nature together with partners, where all organizations, related with theme on wetlands, participate. In 2024 "The Sea and the Mire".

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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 events (seminars, workshops, trips etc) have been organized by Environmental Board, Estonian Wetland Society and Estonian Fund for Nature every year. Since 2016 every second year an International Wetland day has been celebrated with special conference, organised by Estonian Fund for Nature together with partners, where all organizations, related with theme on wetlands, participate. In 2024 "The Sea and the Mire".

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Target 17

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

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

Please select only one per square.

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

>>> State Forest Centre (RMK) is co-financing the restoration works on state lands. EU LIFE+ funded projects

get co-financing from Environmental Investment Centre (KIK) funds.

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}

☒ C=Partially

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}

☒ C=Partially

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

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

18.3 Additional information

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

>>> No specific support for implementing the Convention of Wetlands.

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ A=Yes

18.5 Additional information

>>> Lake Peipsi shared with Russia. North Livonian wetland complex shared with Latvia.

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

>>> Estonia and Latvia have designated the North-Livonian Transboundary Ramsar Site. Joint Master Plan was drafted in 2006.

The Estonian-Russian Transboundary Water Commission promotes cooperation in the field of the wise use of the Lake Peipsi resources. The Russian war in Ukraine has compromised the cooperation with Russia however.

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

>>> Estonian Ornithological Society, HELCOM (marine mammals)

Target 19

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20]

19.1 Has your country conducted any national needs assessment since COP14 to inform capacity building planning to implement the Convention’s Strategic Plan? {19.1}

☒ B=No

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

☒ C=Partially

19.2 Additional Information

>>> Wetlands are essential part of national and EU nature conservation policies and strategies. No need for specific strategies and actions.

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

☒ A=Yes

19.3 Additional information

>>> Wetlands and wise use of resources are in Estonian National school curricula.

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ Y=Not Relevant

b) at other wetlands

☒ Y=Not Relevant

19.4 Additional information

>>> There is no such position as wetland site manager in Estonia. Management planning and implementation is responsibility of the Environmental Board, working in co-operation with all stakeholders.

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

☒ A=Yes

