



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>

>>> KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

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Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

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Name and title

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

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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)

>>> Public Awareness and Education Programmes: Efforts have been made to raise public awareness about the importance of wetlands, including campaigns on World Wetlands Day(s) through radio, television, and print media. These initiatives have been complemented by materials adapted to the Siswati language to reach the various society segments.

2)

>>> Wetland Policy and Legal Framework: Progress has been made in the adoption of the Draft National Wetlands Policy and the Strategy Action Plan by the Government of Eswatini. The Document has been well received by Cabinet for adoption. Furthermore, the revised Environment Management Act (2022) has incorporated strict measures to safeguard wetlands as sensitive areas that must not be impacted negatively during any project development.

3)

>>> On-going Development of the Wetlands Database: Eswatini has expanded the wetland database through various project initiatives like the Mbuluzi Ecosystems Restoration project and others. This database will contribute in the development of the National Wetland Inventory product for Eswatini

4)

>>> Wetlands Protection and Support: The Eswatini Environment fund and other projects have awarded small grants to communities country-wide and private stakeholders to undertake the protection of a number of degraded wetland sites.

5)

>>> Strategic Partnerships: Eswatini has focused on aligning its wetland conservation goals with broader environmental strategies, including CBD - NBSAP, UNFCCC- NDC, UNCCD-LDN.

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

1)

>>> Wetland Degradation and Encroachment

Urban Expansion: Increasing urbanization and infrastructure development often result in the encroachment on wetlands. Agricultural Practices: Intensive farming and irrigation schemes lead to habitat loss and water resource depletion in wetland areas.

Industrial Pollution: Discharges into water bodies from industrial activities could negatively affect wetland ecosystems.

2)

>>> Climate Change Impacts And Poor Stewardship of Wetlands

Wetlands in Eswatini are vulnerable to climate change effects such as prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall patterns, and rising temperatures. These changes impact the hydrological balance, reducing water availability for wetlands and biodiversity.

3)

>>> Limited Financial and Human Resources

Insufficient funding for wetland conservation programs limits the ability to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan effectively. Low numbers of skilled personnel and technical expertise hampers the monitoring and sustainable management of wetlands.

4)

>>> Inadequate Policy's Coordination and Enforcement

Despite having frameworks for environmental protection, enforcing laws related to wetland conservation can be challenging due to institutional weaknesses. Conflicts between economic development goals and conservation priorities often result in non-compliance with wetland protection policies. Land ownership and tenure challenges and lack of incentives thereof compromises protection efforts.

5)

>>> Community Awareness and Participation

Effective stakeholder engagement is critical, but mobilizing local communities to actively participate in wetland conservation remains a challenge due lack of incentives. Many communities rely on wetlands for subsistence, which may lead to overexploitation if they are unaware of sustainable practices.

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

1)

>>> Strengthening Wetland Inventory and Monitoring Systems

Conduct a comprehensive inventory of wetlands, ensuring alignment with Ramsar criteria. Establish robust monitoring programs to assess wetland health, focusing on biodiversity, water quality, and ecosystem services. Utilize GIS and remote sensing for real-time monitoring and reporting.

2)

>>> Enhancing Wetland Policy and Legislation

Review and update national policies to integrate Ramsar obligations, emphasizing wetland protection and sustainable use. Strengthen enforcement mechanisms to prevent degradation caused by agricultural expansion, urbanization, and mining.

3)

>>> Community-Based Wetland Management

Engage local communities in wetland conservation through capacity-building programs and sustainable livelihood projects. Promote awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of wetlands in water regulation, biodiversity, and climate resilience. Foster eco-tourism initiatives in Ramsar sites to generate local income while preserving ecosystems.

4)

>>> Restoration of Degraded Wetlands

Identify and prioritize degraded wetland areas for restoration. Implement restoration activities such as reforestation of riparian zones, controlling invasive species, and re-establishing natural hydrology. Collaborate with stakeholders, including NGOs and international partners, to mobilize technical and financial resources.

5)

>>> Climate Change Adaptation and Wetland Resilience

Integrate wetland conservation into national climate change adaptation strategies. Promote the use of wetlands as natural buffers against floods, droughts, and other climate impacts. Conduct research on the role of wetlands in carbon sequestration and promote these findings to support global climate goals.

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

>>> Eswatini AA recommends assistance on Capacity Building: Training programs for stakeholders on wetland management, restoration, and sustainable use. Technical Support: Expertise in monitoring, mapping, and assessing wetland ecosystems, especially through advanced tools like GIS or remote sensing. Funding Assistance: Support in accessing international funds or grants for wetland conservation and management projects. Policy Guidance: Help in aligning Eswatini's national policies and strategies with Ramsar objectives, especially regarding the wise use of wetlands. Raising Awareness: Initiatives to enhance public and institutional awareness of Ramsar sites and their significance.

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)?

>>> Yes, assistance in resources mobilisation for an increased financial support towards enhancing the restoration of wetlands in vulnerable ecosystems and drought areas should be prioritised. The available funding should be increased to support the conservation and wise-use needs both nationally, regionally, and internationally. Research led intervention must be promoted, hence the need to capacitate more technocrats and support research technological needs.

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.

>>> Gender Balance in Wetland-Related Activities in Eswatini

Eswatini is committed to promoting gender inclusivity in environmental governance, including wetland-related decision-making, programmes, and research. Efforts have been made to ensure equitable gender representation in these areas, recognizing the critical roles both men and women play in the sustainable

management of wetlands.

Participation in Decision-Making:Eswatini has adopted policies aligned with international frameworks like Resolution XIII.18 to ensure women's active involvement in environmental decision-making. Women occupy leadership positions within institutions overseeing wetland management and conservation, although further efforts are needed to achieve full parity.

Engagement in Programmes and Projects:Community-based wetland initiatives often prioritize gender inclusivity by involving both men and women in project planning and implementation. Women, in particular, are recognized for their knowledge and contributions to traditional wetland management practices.**Research and Capacity Building:**Academic and research institutions in Eswatini are increasingly promoting gender balance in environmental sciences. Training workshops and capacity-building programmes on wetland conservation encourage participation from underrepresented groups, including women and youth.

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

>>> Here are possible areas where change is necessary to advance gender equality:

Policy and Legal Framework

Review and reform policies to ensure gender-sensitive provisions are integrated into national environmental and conservation laws.Establish explicit gender equality objectives in Ramsar-related policies and management plans.

Participation and Decision-Making

Promote equal representation of women and men in decision-making bodies for wetlands and conservation management.Empower women to take leadership roles in wetland committees, task forces, or advisory groups.

Capacity Building and Education

Implement training programs focusing on building women's technical and leadership skills in wetland management and sustainable practices.Raise awareness among communities about the importance of gender equality in natural resource management.

Access to Resources

Ensure equitable access for women to land, water, and financial resources linked to wetland use.Facilitate women's access to funding opportunities and grants for conservation initiatives.

Data Collection and Monitoring

Collect gender-disaggregated data to understand how wetlands management impacts men and women differently.Incorporate gender indicators into monitoring frameworks for Ramsar site management.

Livelihood Support

Promote sustainable livelihood programs targeting women, such as eco-tourism, fish farming, or sustainable harvesting of wetland resources.Address barriers preventing women from fully participating in wetland-related economic activities.

Cultural and Social Norms

Challenge and address cultural norms and stereotypes that limit women's roles in conservation and decision-making.

Engage traditional leaders and communities in dialogues to promote inclusive practices.

Health and Safety

Address gender-specific risks, such as access to sanitation or exposure to unsafe working conditions, in wetland areas.Promote the inclusion of women's health considerations in wetland-related activities.

Networking and Collaboration

Encourage partnerships with women's organizations, NGOs, and other stakeholders to mainstream gender in wetland conservation efforts.Share best practices and lessons learned from other countries or Ramsar sites addressing gender equality successfully.

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

>>> Here are some lessons learned in the context of wetlands and gender equality:

1. **Inclusive Participation:** Women's involvement in wetland management has been traditionally overlooked, yet women often bear the brunt of environmental degradation, especially in rural areas. By involving women in decision-making processes related to wetland conservation and management, Eswatini has seen more inclusive and sustainable approaches. Including women's perspectives helps ensure that the management of wetlands addresses their needs, which often focus on water access, fuelwood, and agricultural practices.

2. **Capacity Building for Women:** Building women's capacity to manage wetland resources is essential. Workshops and training programs have been key in raising awareness among women about the importance of wetland ecosystems. Empowering women with knowledge on sustainable agricultural practices, water management, and conservation methods has led to improved wetland health and increased gender equality in rural communities.

3. **Policy Development:** Integrating gender considerations into environmental policies and frameworks is crucial. The government and local organizations have learned that gender-responsive policies in wetland conservation can enhance women's ability to participate in conservation and management efforts. This has involved strengthening gender equality provisions within national environmental policies, such as the Draft National Wetland Policy, and ensuring that women benefit from wetland resources equitably.

4. **Economic Empowerment through Wetland Resources:** Wetlands are a source of livelihood for many communities, especially women, who engage in activities such as agriculture, fishing, and harvesting of wetland plants. Gender-sensitive economic empowerment initiatives have been critical, as they allow women to access resources more equitably. This includes promoting women's participation in wetland-based enterprises and ensuring that they have access to credit, markets, and training for better economic returns.

5. **Addressing Gendered Vulnerabilities:** Women in Eswatini are often more vulnerable to the negative impacts of wetland degradation, such as water scarcity and loss of agricultural productivity. Climate change has exacerbated these vulnerabilities, and lessons learned emphasize the importance of incorporating gender-specific vulnerability assessments into wetland management strategies. Tailoring interventions to address women's unique challenges, such as providing access to clean water or securing land tenure for women, can mitigate the negative effects of wetland degradation.

6. **Community-Driven Solutions:** A lesson learned from Eswatini's wetland projects is that community-driven solutions are more effective when gender dynamics are properly understood and addressed. Projects that engage both men and women, but which pay special attention to women's roles in wetland resource use, have been more successful in achieving long-term conservation goals. Ensuring that both men and women share responsibility for the conservation of wetlands fosters a more balanced approach to resource management.

7. **Collaboration with Local NGOs:** Collaboration with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations has been vital in promoting gender equality in wetland conservation. NGOs have facilitated women's groups and advocacy campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands, climate change, and gender equality. These partnerships have helped amplify the voices of rural women and provided them with platforms to influence policy decisions.

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

- >>> 1. National Gender Policy (2007)
 2. Eswatini Environment Management Act (2002)
 3. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
 4. Climate Change Policy and Strategy (2016)
 5. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Policy
 6. Eswatini National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAP)
 7. Draft National Wetland Policy

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).

- >>> 1. **Youth Education and Awareness Programs**
School and Community Outreach: Environmental education programs, such as those targeting school children and local communities, help raise awareness about the importance of wetlands and the Ramsar Convention. This could include activities like school competitions, awareness campaigns, and field trips to Ramsar sites in Eswatini.
Youth Training on Wetland Conservation: Organizing workshops, seminars, and practical training for youth in conservation techniques, the role of wetlands in biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and sustainable livelihoods.
2. **Youth Engagement in Ramsar Site Management**
Involvement in Wetland Restoration Projects: Involving youth in practical restoration and management activities at Ramsar sites, such as planting native vegetation, clearing invasive species, and monitoring the health of wetlands. This direct involvement offers hands-on experience while also contributing to the success of wetland conservation efforts.
Volunteer Programs: Encouraging youth to volunteer in Ramsar site management or related environmental initiatives. They could assist in monitoring, data collection, and reporting on wetland health and biodiversity.
3. **Youth-Led Environmental Initiatives**
Support for Youth-Led Environmental Organizations: Encouraging and supporting the formation of youth-led groups focused on wetland conservation and broader environmental issues. These groups can be key drivers of community-based conservation actions and can advocate for wetland protection at local, national, and international levels.
Partnerships with NGOs and International Organizations: Partnering with international organizations such as the Ramsar Convention, UNEP, and local environmental NGOs to provide youth with the tools, knowledge, and networks necessary for effective involvement in wetland management.

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

- >>> 1. Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC),
 2. Eswatini Environment Authority (EEA),
 3. National Water Authority (NWA),
 4. Department of Water Affairs (DWA),
 5. Ministry of Natural Resources & Energy (MNRE),
 6. Eswatini Water Development Enterprise (EWADE)
 7. Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MTEA),

8. WaterAid Eswatini,
9. Eswatini Ramsar Sites Managers and.
10. Africa Cooperative Action Trust (ACAT) – LILIMA ESWATINI.
11. Eswatini Youth Biodiversity Network
12. Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
e) Integrated coastal zone management plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
f) National forest management plan/strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

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

>>> The process to integrate wetlands protection, wise use and restoration, or wetland benefits, into other national strategies and planning processes, is ongoing as the public awareness improves.

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}

☒ B=No

2.1 Additional Information

>>> Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions are decided subjectively as they do not exist.

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

>>> Current practice is that some water is retained in flow without specific flow quantities.

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

☒ A=Yes

2.3 Additional Information

>>> The designation has issues of encroachment on the Ramsar such that the issues of rich nutrient inputs and other wetland degrading activities have been reduced drastically.

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

2.4 Additional Information

>>> There are currently no guidelines save for sporadic measures.

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

>>> There is a water rationing and allocation by the Department of Water Affairs in the allocation of water to public and private water users for commercial Agriculture.

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

☒ C=Partially

2.6 Additional Information

>>> There is potential for the establishment of these forms of waste-water treatment structures.

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}

☒ B=No

3.1 Additional Information

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

>>> Not Applicable.

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

>>> There is a growing trend in the number of institutions engaging in wetlands protection initiatives.

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).

>>> The use of grants and environment fines that offer grants for wetlands and environment protection projects. These are offered by Parastatal as incentives to help communities to fence-off, undertake capacitation, and other sustainable wetlands management programmes.

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

☒ D=Planned

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.

>>> All stakeholders have been capacitated to manage land use at the community level through Community Development Planning (CDP) which emphasises the protection of sensitive sites such as wetlands. The wetlands Policy also discourages perverse incentives.

Target 4

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6]

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

☒ A=Yes

4.1 Additional information

>>> There exists an Invasive Alien Plant Control Strategy.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[National IAPS Strategy - Final August 2020.pdf](#) - National Control IAPS Strategy

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

[Invasive Alien Plants Species](#)

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}

☒ B=No

4.2 Additional information

>>> There is a need to develop a specific wetlands strategy on IAPS that addresses IAPS in the waterbodies or main channels.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

National IAPS Strategy - Final August 2020.pdf

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

>>> A risk assessment is needed due lack of data.

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

☒ B=No

4.4 Additional Information

>>> Assessment tools are needed to evaluate the effectiveness of control programmes in wetlands.

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 wetlands database under development through projects implemented nationally when consolidated and completed will assist in the designation of more Ramsar sites in Eswatini.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Wetlands Strategic Plan Final Draft 05072024.doc - Wetlands National Action Plan

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 0

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 0

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 3

5.2 – 5.4 Additional information

>>> The development of wetlands management plans has not been intentional as the wetlands are valued because of their form, structure, and functions. There is still the need to develop the requisite management plans following the Ramsar wetlands sites managing criteria - Resolution VIII.14 (2002) of the Ramsar Convention

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

☒ D=Planned

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.

>>> Not Applicable

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 1

5.6 Additional information

>>> Hawane Dam and Nature Reserve Ramsar Site (2221) has a cross-sectoral committee and the other sites are privately owned.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 3

5.7 Additional information

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

>>> 1. Hawane Dam and Nature Reserve - 2121

2. Van Eck Dam - 2123

3. Sand River Dam - 2122

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.

>>> The coordination of the reporting obligation has been poor due to the unavailability of human resources and budgets to support the engagement of support staff, either on short-term or long-term contracts to deliver on this reporting obligation.

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

>>> Not Applicable

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

>>> Not Applicable

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?

>>> 2027

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

☒ Y=Not Relevant

8.2 Additional information

>>> Two Administrative Authority (AA) staff members are currently undergoing training in South Korea on the development of the National Wetlands Inventory. This exercise will be completed in 2026. It is anticipated that the NWI will be consolidated thereafter.

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ X=Unknown

8.3 Additional information

>>> The NWI is currently not in place. Updates will undertaken every three years.

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

☒ C=Partially

8.4 Additional information

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

>>> Information is to be shared through an online platform by 2027.

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

>>> Currently, data is maintained in GIS format within a GIS Desktop information system.

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

☒ X=Unknown

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

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

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

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

>>> “Inland” and “human-made”

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km ²)
A -- Permanent shallow marine waters	Not Applicable

B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds	Not Applicable
C -- Coral reefs	Not Applicable
D -- Rocky marine shores	Not Applicable
E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores	Not Applicable
F -- Estuarine waters	Not Applicable
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	Not Applicable
Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs	Not Applicable
H -- Intertidal marshes	Not Applicable
I -- Intertidal forested wetlands	Not Applicable
J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons	Not Applicable
K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons	Not Applicable
Zk(a) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	Not Applicable

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km2)

>>> 0

8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
L -- Permanent inland deltas	NA
M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls	Unknown
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks	Unknown
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes	NA
P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes	NA
Q -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes	NA
R -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats	NA
Sp -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	NA
Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	NA

Tp -- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools	Unknown
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils	Unknown
U -- Non-forested peatlands	Unknown
Va -- Alpine wetlands	NA
Vt -- Tundra wetlands	NA
W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands	Unknown
Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	Unknown
Xp -- Forested peatlands	NA
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.	Unknown
Zg -- Geothermal wetlands	Unknown
Zk(b) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	Unknown

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

>>> 0

8.6 Human-made wetlands

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

8.6 Human-made wetlands total (km2)

>>> 0

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

8.7 Additional Information

>>> The lack of a comprehensive inventory limits the response in this case.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3=no change <input type="checkbox"/> 2=deterioration <input type="checkbox"/> 1=major deterioration

8.8 Additional Information

>>> The subjective assessment indicates a state of minor 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}

	Ye s
a) Access to data and data acquisition standards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Wetland delineation methods and approaches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Habitat classifications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Standardization in data interpretation methods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Relevant skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Data collection and mapping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Collaboration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Others	<input type="checkbox"/>

8.9 Additional Information

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

>>> Not Applicable.

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

8.10 Additional Information

>>> Not Applicable.

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

>>> Document cleared by Cabinet and awaiting to be launched Nationally.

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

☒ A=Yes

9.2 Additional information

>>> Environment Assessment Regulations, 2022,
National Development Plan, 2022 - 2028,
Draft National Wetland Policy, 2024 -2034

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

>>> The revised water policy has incorporated aspects of wetlands and there is representation of wetlands practitioners in the Riverbasin committees.

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

>>> Advocacy campaigns are visible in this regard on Water Day, Wetlands Day, and others.

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

>>> The country's national climate change policy strategy is relevant in this regard.

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

>>> The country's NDC is relevant in this regard.

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

>>> Projects under the Ministry of Agriculture such as Climate Smart Agriculture, Sustainable Land Management, Tunneling, and Greenhouses enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems

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

>>> Ecosystem evaluation in protected areas has been undertaken and other studies.

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

>>> The recreational use of the wetlands is being promoted by the urban area authorities.

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

>>> All wetlands in Eswatini are supported, especially the small ones, as our country is also relatively small, and every ecological asset or biodiversity feature is precious and worth protecting.

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?

☒ Y=Not relevant

10.1 Additional Information

>>> Eswatini people are of one ethnic group and origin with no Indigenous peoples or communities.

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

☒ Y=Not relevant

10.2 Additional Information

>>> Not Applicable

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

>>> The Annual Reed dance traditional ceremony involves girls and married women ceremonies are well documented as they partake in cultural collection and harvesting of reeds for use as part of the traditional homage and chastity.

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.

>>> Local communities are actively participating in the conservation of wetlands as they have long realised the importance of wetlands in sustaining livelihoods. Policies relevant in this regard include: the Eswatini / Swaziland Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (PRSAP, 2007), Wetlands Strategy and Action Plan, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and others

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

☒ B=No

10.5 Additional information

>>> The level of information and practices on wetlands knowledge is moderate to high amongst the elders, however, it has not been formalised or documented.

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

>>> The economic valuation assessment of Eswatini Protected Areas has been undertaken and a number of ecosystem services and goods were scored high in the assignment. Ramsar sites have not been assessed though their water supply and biodiversity assets have an unquantified value that needs to be quantified as part of natural resources accounting. The value of such irreplaceable assets should never be compared to replaceable assets.

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

☒ C=Partially

11.2 Additional information

>>> Traditional activities or subsistence projects contributing to food and water security have been ongoing and these have largely been at individual farm or homestead production level.

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

>>> Non-Governmental Organisations such as Redcross Eswatini, ICAT Lilima Eswatini, and EWADE amongst others have undertaken wetlands protection in order to boost production levels through sustained water flows and improved environment quality.

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

☒ D=Planned

11.4 Additional information

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

>>> Socio-economic values need documentation and tracking at the local wetland setting.

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

>>> Traditionally communities embarking on protection efforts highlight the significance of the wetland resources used in their lifestyle and hence the motivation to conserve them for this relevance.

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?

☒ B=No

12.1 Additional Information

>>> Eswatini has yet to develop targets.

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

☒ B=No

12.2 Additional information

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

>>> A priority-setting exercise is still to be undertaken.

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

☒ D=Planned

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	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Inland	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Human-made	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

12.3 Additional information

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

>>> Not Applicable

12.4 Have the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.1) and Resolution XII.11 on Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention been implemented? {12.3}

☒ C=Partially

12.4 Additional Information

If “yes” or “partially”, please indicate the progress in implementation

>>> Eswatini is currently developing and mapping peatlands with the assistance of the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Mining	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
j) Fisheries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

13.1 Additional Information

>>> There are various forms of engagements with the above-mentioned sectors to reform activities degrading wetlands such that there is improvement together with compliance to the national legislation such as the Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2022.

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

>>> The Eswatini Environment Authority (EEA) takes the lead on all matters affecting the wider environment in the country and as such has promulgated the Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2022.

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

>>> The Environment Management Act 2002 and the Assessment Regulations 2022 make the process mandatory in this regard.

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.

>>> Southern African Ramsar Regional Initiative (SARRI)

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).

>>> Not Applicable

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

>>> The plan is multilevel encompassing, national, subnational, catchment, and site levels.

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

>>> 3

b) at other wetlands

☒ E=# centres

>>> 2

16.2 Additional information

>>> the development of wetlands education centres is relatively new and hence needs a structured infrastructure and focused learning materials.

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

>>> Wetlands are national resources / public assets and the participatory approach is always emphasised in practice.

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

☒ A=Yes

16.4 Additional information

>>> There is a need for more frequent meetings in the implementation of the strategy and action plan on wetlands.

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

☒ B=No

16.5 Additional information

>>> The National Ramsar Wetlands Committee is in place.

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 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

>>> There is a need for more interactions and engagements to improve the sharing of information.

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

>>> The country has always commemorated World Wetlands Day nationally as far as the year 2000.

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

>>> The electronic and print media are utilised in the publicity campaigns on the WWD celebratory themes.

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

>>> Additional information is available on the ENTC and Ramsar website.

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}

☒ B=No

17.1 Additional information

>>> There is a need for this action to be prioritised by the Secretariat in support of the contracting parties.

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

>>> The UNDP includes environmental safeguards assessments.

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

Please select only one per square.

--	--

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

17.3 Additional information

for example from which countries or agencies

>>> There is a need for this action to be prioritised.

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.

>>> The subvention caters for the protection of all ecosystems in the country including wetlands.

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}

☒ D=Planned

18.1 Additional information

>>> The MEA focal points are already involved on an ad-hoc basis.

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

>>> All collaborative matters on wetlands issues in the country are handled by ENTC as the Administrative Authority (AA).

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) FAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) UNECE	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) UNFCCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Global Environment Facility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) UNDP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) UNESCO	<input checked="" 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.

>>> The support has not been specific to wetlands but included other environmental themes.

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

>>> Network with the IMCG (International Mire Conservation Peatlands) and exchange visits with the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa.

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

☒ A=Yes

18.5 Additional information

>>> The Riverbasins wetland systems identified, such as the INMACOM, KOBWA, etc.

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

>>> Regular meetings and briefings including a dedicated office operating in Mbabane.

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

>>> 1. Birdlife International, 2. Convention on Migratory Species.

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}

☒ D=Planned

19.1 Additional information

>>> Capacity building planning is key for the effective delivering of the wetlands management programme.

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

>>> MEAs to involved in the overall approach.

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

>>> The science and geography curriculum at primary, secondary, high and tertiary levels.

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ E=# opportunities

>>> 1

b) at other wetlands

☒ E=# Opportunities

>>> 7

19.4 Additional information

>>> The Non-Governmental, parastatals, government, and community organisations have undertaken numerous trainings on wetland protection, utilisation, management, and others.

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

{19.4}

☒ A=Yes

19.5 Additional information

>>> AA uses the previous National Reports, hence the improvements in areas such as the development of the Wetlands Policy, and development of the strategy and Action Plan amongst others.

