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
››› Finland

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Letter_NR_Finland_COP15.jpg - Letter by Finlan'ds Administrative Authority

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority
››› Ministry of the Environment

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title
››› Maria Westerman, Senior Specialist

Mailing address
››› P.O. Box 35, 00023 Government, Finland

Telephone
››› +358503374846

Email
››› maria.westerman@gov.fi

Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title
››› Tiia Tanskanen, Senior Specialist, Conservation

Mailing address
››› Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland, PO. Box 80, 00521 Helsinki

Telephone
››› +358505136833

Email
››› tiia.tanskanen@metsa.fi

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

Name and title
››› Santtu Kareksela, Service Owner, Ecosystem Restoration

Name of organisation
››› Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland

Mailing address
››› Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland, Vankanlähde 7, 13100 Hämeenlinna

Telephone
››› +358406602283

Email
››› santtu.kareksela@metsa.fi

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

Name and title
››› The process for designating a Government CEPA national focal point is still ongoing at the time of reporting.

Name of organisation
››› Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland

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

Name and title
››› Tapani Veistola, Executive Director

Name of organisation
››› The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (FANC)

Mailing address
››› Itälahdenkatu 22 b A, 00210 Helsinki

Telephone
››› +358400615530

Email
››› tapani.veistola@sll.fi

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

Name and title
››› The process for designating a youth national focal point is still ongoing at the time of reporting.

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)
››› Landscape level planning: The comprehensiveness of planning affecting wetlands has progressed slightly, and the development trend is slightly improving. Although difficult to implement in practice due to e.g. fragmented land ownership, catchment level planning for the conservation and restoration of water bodies and other wetlands has raised increasing awareness nationally in the past triennium. The Roadmap for Catchment-based Planning until 2030 was launched in 2024 to support the mainstreaming of catchment-scale planning (https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/165409).

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

http://
The Roadmap for Catchment-based Planning until 2030

2)
››› Knowledge and information related to wetlands and their restoration are continually improving, altough remain somewhat fragmented.

3)
››› Legislation: The Nature Conservation Act from 1997 was updated to meet the latest conservation needs and entered into force in 2023 (https://ym.fi/en/nature-conservation-legislation). Several improvements were made for wetlands. More information is presented under question 9.2.

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

Nature Conservation Legislation

4)
››› Successful programs and projects:
The Helmi habitats programme launched in 2020 aims to strengthen biodiversity by conservation and management of peatlands, bird wetlands, semi-natural grasslands, forest habitats, small freshwater bodies, and shoreline habitats of inland water bodies and the Baltic (https://ym.fi/en/helmi-habitats-programme). The programme covers many wetland types and has aims for remarkable conservation and management efforts during 2020-2024, and sets goals for further actions for 2030. Helmi is a very significant input to nature conservation with an initial budget of 42 M€ for 2020.
The SOTKA wetlands project 2020-2022 (https://mmm.fi/en/sotka-project) aimed to halt the loss of biodiversity and restore waterbird populations through actions outside the conservation area network. Many ducks of Western Europe hatch in the boreal wetlands of Finland, where several waterbird populations are currently declining due to habitat degradation and the invasion of non-native species such as the Raccoon Dog and American Mink. Most quarry ducks, such as Wigeon, Pintail, and Teal, raise their broods outside the protected areas and SPA network, in the wetlands of agricultural and forestry areas. The total budget was over 3 M€. SOTKA complements the Helmi habitats programme.
Five EU LIFE projects are implementing wetland conservation. CoastNet LIFE (2018-2025) focuses on coastal habitats (https://www.metsa.fi/en/project/coastnet-life/), FRESHABIT LIFE IP (2016-2022) on freshwater habitats (https://www.metsa.fi/en/project/freshabit-eng/), Hydrology LIFE (2017-2023) on peatlands (https://www.metsa.fi/en/project/hydrology-life/), Biodiversea LIFE IP (2021-2029) on marine habitats (https://www.metsa.fi/en/project/biodiversea-eng/), LIFE Revives on reviving freshwater pearl mussel populations and their habitats (https://www.jyu.fi/science/en/bioenv/research/natural-resources-and-environment/life-revives). Altogether the budget of these projects is more than 37 M€. Furthermore, a new strategic LIFE project, Priodiversity LIFE (2024-2031) has started and has a funding of 50M€. Project actions on restoration and nature management will be carried out also in wetland habitats (https://www.metsa.fi/en/project/priodiversity-eng/).
The Ahti programme 2023-2027 aims to improve water condition by reducing nutrient loads, improving soil structure, managing pollutants and using resources more wisely. The focus is on the catchment areas of the Archipelago Sea. The Ahti Programme will continue the work of the Water Protection Programme (2019-2023), Program for Nutrient Recycling (2012-2023) and the Archipelago Sea Programme (2021-).

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

Priodiversity LIFE project
LIFE Revives project
Biodiversea LIFE project

Hydrology LIFE project
Freshabit LIFE project
CoastNet LIFE project
SOTKA wetlands project
Helmi Habitats Programme

5)
››› International cooperation: Finland has actively participated in international forums to promote wetland conservation and wise use.

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

1)
››› Most wetland habitats and many species are still considered to be threatened.

2)
››› Scarce resources: to meet the targets of EU Restoration Law and other national and international commitments, extensive and stable funding for wetland conservation, management, and restoration are key. Fluctuation in funding between governments affect the continuity and implementation of programs such as the Helmi habitats programme, which has been a key tool for wetland conservation and restoration since 2021.

3)
››› The concept of landscape-scale or catchment-scale planning and implementation of wetland conservation has been widely promoted and accepted. However, practical implementation faces several challenges, including fragmented land ownership, multiple land use categories, lack of long-term coordination, and scattered information resources. These challenges can often be addressed through projects with external funding, such as EU LIFE projects, but long-term planning and implementation are also needed. The Roadmap for Catchment-based Planning (2024) aims to establish clear responsibilities and improved cooperation practices. Implementing catchment-scale planning and iproving the overall condition of wetlands also requires addressing the root causes of overgrowth and eutrophication. Despite efforts to reduce agricultural nutrient loading, nutrient emissions from agriculture and forestry persist. Climate change, with its varying periods of drought and heavy rains, exacerbates nutrient loading. Additionally, forestry practices like drainage and intensive soil preparation further increase nutrient loading, impacting the condition of wetlands.

4)
››› There is still lack of systematically gathered data on wetland status and threats, especially on small water bodies.

5)
››› The spread of invasive alien species as well as increasing predator pressure poses an ever increasing threat to wetlands and wetland species, in particular in relation to climate change.

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

1)
››› Reversing the trend of threatened habitat types and species in wetlands through protection, management, restoration, and sustainable use. This will be achieved by implementing the CBD and EU biodiversity strategies. The Helmi habitats programme is a key tool for this, aiming to protect up to 75 000 hectares and restore more than 50 000 hectares of wetlands by 2030.

2)
››› Implementation of catchment level solutions. Political support for catchment level management. Land-use planning with implications on wetlands must be carried out comprehensively and the needs of wetland habitats, including their ecosystem services, are taken adequately into account in any planning that pertains to wetlands and in the execution of any measures that effect them. Any planning pertaining to wetlands is carried out on the landscape and catchment area level. For example, peat mining for fuel is to be ended during the 2030's and the best ways for after-use of the mining areas need to be considered regarding climate, water, and biodiversity protection. The landscape level also includes the concept of other effective area-based means (OECM) for improving biodiversity on wetlands among other habitats.

3)
››› Improving the joint consideration of climate, water and biodiversity protection in all wetland-related

conservation and restoration initiatives. All these aspects will be considered when pioritizing for projects. Regarding the climate issues, both mitigation and adaptation is to be considered.

4)
››› The significance of wetlands is widely understood and wetland-related communications support the understanding of decision-makers of the benefits provided by wetlands, and these benefits are known and appreciated and they direct the actions of decision-makers and other actors. Communication of wetland issues needs to involve the whole society.

5)
››› Finland continues to actively participate in international cooperation to promote the protection and sustainable use of wetlands.

D. Does the Administrative Authority have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention Secretariat?
››› Finland wants to express its heartfelt gratitude to the Secretariat for the assistance in implementing the Convention and looks forward to the continuance of good assistance in the future. As a recommendation for enhanced assistance, we recommend taking onboard feedback and ways to lighten and decrease the administrative burden where possible, including ways to communicate effectively via electronic sources.

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)?
››› Finland recognizes the critical role played by IOPs and recommends strengthening collaboration with them in ways that benefit both Parties and IOPs for more effective and inclusive conservation of wetlands as a joint effort.

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.
››› Finland is one of the world's leading countries in fostering gender equality. Finland propels worldwide commitment to gender equality. Finland has supported the preparation of the Guidance Document on integrating Gender issues into the implementation of the Ramsar Convention. More information about gender equality processes in Finland: https://stm.fi/en/gender-equality.

G. On the basis of your indications above, list possible areas where change is necessary for the achievement of gender equality.
››› The Government Action Plan for Gender Equality 2020–2023, "Making Finland a global leader in gender equality" outlines measures for promoting gender equality (https://stm.fi/en/action-plan-for-equality).

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

http://
The Government Action Plan for Gender Equality 2020–2023, "Making Finland a global leader in gender equality"

H. Please describe lessons learnt in the context of wetlands and gender equality work in your country.
››› In accordance with recognising the overall importance of gender equality, wetlands and gender equality play an integral role in Finland, which is covered by wetlands. Women are included in the decision process and government positions and this is integral for the proper inclusion of gender equality in wetland related work. Inclusion can only work effectively in reality if both men and women are included and allowed to participate in wetland decision making process, including wetland conservation efforts.

I. If possible, please list gender-related policies, strategies and action plans in place relevant to wetlands in your country.
››› The Government Action Plan for Gender Equality 2020–2023, "Making Finland a global leader in gender equality" outlines measures for promoting gender equality (https://stm.fi/en/action-plan-for-equality).
Work regarding a new national strategy on biodiversity is ongoing at the time of reporting, which will include gender equality in relation to biodiversity conservation (including wetland conservation) in accordance with the Kunming-Montreal Targets 22 and 23.

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

The Government Action Plan for Gender Equality 2020–2023, "Making Finland a global leader in gender 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).

››› Finland includes youth participation through Finnish National Youth Council Allianssi and in particular its annual Allianssi Youth Delegate Program. The program allows the youth to represent the voice of their generation, engage in dialogue, highlight the thoughts and wishes of the youth in discussions and influence political processes in Finland and abroad, including international conventions such as the Convention on Wetlands. For example, in COP14 of the Convention on Wetlands the delegation of Finland included a youth delegate, bringing the voice of youth regarding wetland conservation in both national and international arenas.

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

››› Ministry of the Environment
Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland
Natural Resources Institute (LUKE)
Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
ELY Centre of Uusimaa
ELY Centre of South Ostrobothnia
Birdlife Finland
Tapio Group
The Finnish Wildlife Agency
The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK)
Geological Survey of Finland
The Sámi Parliament
The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (FANC)

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	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) Poverty eradication strategies	☑ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
e) Integrated coastal zone management plan	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
f) National forest management plan/strategies	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
g) National policies or measures on agriculture	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

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

Target 2

Water userespects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.

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

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

2.1 Additional Information
››› The Act on Water Resources Management (1299/2004) with recent amendments addresses widely the environmental goals for river basin management, including coastal, freshwater and groundwater wetlands, and conservation areas. One of the latest amendments (19.12.2015/1263) specifically addresses those groundwater aquifers that support groundwater-dependent terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The aquifers have been intensively inventorized and those identified supporting groundwater-dependent habitats or species are given a special classification. The ecological needs of the associated wetlands should be taken into account in water abstraction planning and implementation.
In addition, e.g. a new approach on re-directing waters (now blocked by ditching) back to protected mires from surrounding silviculture areas is being implemented in projects and emphasized in the Governmental Helmi habitats programme for 250-430 sites. It improves the natural landscape level hydrological connectivity of protected peatland sites, which have been surrounded by drainage channels, by returning the natural surface flow from surrounding areas as much as possible, and thus allowing water filtration and carbon storage services.

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

2.2 Additional Information

››› Environmental flows in the context of migratory fish stocks have been extensively addressed in a research project: http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/160242. Also, other research and plans have been carried out and a prioritised list of sites has been developed. Implementation of the environmental flow has started at some sites but has been slowed down by limited resources.
Especially on peatlands, ladscape level hydrological connectivity is emphasized more in forestry near by mires, bogs, and fens (see additional information above on 2.1).

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

Research report

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
››› The Finnish Ramsar areas are part of our national protected area network and also Natura 2000 network. As part of the Finnish PA network the sites are strictly protected. Restoration of peatland areas in Finnish Ramsar sites is reducing drainage and has a positive long term impact on water quality. However, there are very small changes overall as the situation for these sites has already been very good with respect to sustainable use of water.

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
››› National policies and guidelines are in line with Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12.

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

2.5 Additional Information
››› Projects presented in section 2 achievements.

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

2.6 Additional Information
››› Settling ponds are often used as part of the wastewater treatment technology, especially in forestry. Also, as a new method, water from forestry areas can be channeled to dehydrated aapa mires and the mire will filtrate nutrients and thus prevents harmful run-off into nearby stream or lake ecosystems. Simultaneously the aapa mire at least partially regains natural connection to its watershed.
Stormwater wetlands are a part of urban stormwater management in some municipalities in Finland. They help reduce the amount of solids and nutrients entering water bodies, balance water flows, and prevent flooding. For example, the stormwater management program in Lappeenranta integrates infrastructure and nature-based solutions to maintain high water quality standards in Lake Saimaa. This initiative addresses climate change impacts, such as increased rainfall and flooding, by constructing wetlands and improving urban runoff systems. More information available at: https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/observatory/++aq++metadata/case-studies/protecting-surface-water-quality-in-lappeenranta#:~:text=A%20stormwater%20management%20program%20integrates%20infrastructure

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

Case Study: Protecting surface water quality in Lappeenranta, Finland

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.
››› Finnish legislation provides guidance, and the new Nature Conservation Act includes provisions for voluntary ecological compensation procedure and offset criteria. Some companies have started to implement this through restoration efforts, and there are studies on how to make it work effectively. Additionally, some companies have calculated their ecological footprint in cooperation with various research institutions and communities

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	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) Wetlands in general	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

3.2 Additional information
››› Management of shoreline meadows, sustainable nature-based tourism, organisations for voluntary work, the activities of the Finnish Forest Centre that serves private forest owners (e.g. wetland issues are taken into account in forest plans and river basin plans), foundations receive funding from the private sector, hunting organisations and societies work in game management issues, including e.g. water bird assessments. The private sector is represented in the LIFE projects on wetlands.
Compensation for habitat degradation by development projects is increasing due to the new Nature Conservation Act of 2023, which provides a framework for voluntary ecological compensation. For example, there is pilot projects going on with renewable energy producers where they improve peatland conditions and restore streams to protect endangered species.

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).
››› Agri-environmental support system for farmers and registered associations, Act on Financing of Sustainable Forestry: environmental management projects and financial support, and The Forest Biodiversity Programme METSO for voluntary protection (https://metsonpolku.fi/en/), the METSO -programme is to be continued until 2025. In the Helmi habitats programme municipalities are involved as owners of restoration projects to be funded.

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

http://
Forest Biodiversity Programme METSO for voluntary protection

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.
››› Private forest owners can apply for forestry subsidies (Metka) from the Finnish Forest Centre. The new forestry incentive system, Metka, replaced the Kemera subsidy system in 2024. In the new system, subsidies are no longer granted for the renovation of peatland ditches. Instead, landowners can apply for various forest water protection measures including peatland restoration:
https://www.metsakeskus.fi/fi/metsatalouden-tuet/metka-tuet/tietoa-metka-tuista

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

Forestry incentive system, Metka

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
››› Implementation of the EU and national legislation on Invasive Alien Species, national management plans, large scale co-operation in the Finnish Advisory Board for Invasive Alien Species, studies on small alien predators, Management of invasive Raccoon Dogs (Nyctereutes procyonoides) in the North-European Countries (MIRDINEC) LIFE project, and After Life work from 2010 onwards. Web pages on invasive alien species, e.g. by the Finnish Environment Institute, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finnish Wildlife Agency, Finnish Museum of Natural History, and Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, the Baltic Sea Portal (by Finnish Enviroment Institute). More information at: http://vieraslajit.fi/fi/content/welcome-invasive-alien-species-portal

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

Invasive Alien Species in Finland portal

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
››› Finland´s national policy on invasive alien species (IAS) control and management is officially formed by the EU and national legislation on invasive alien species (https://vieraslajit.fi/info/i-72). Besides this there are several national guidelines and management plans which are tools to implement the IAS legislation. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry adopted a new management plan – number 5 - for the invasive alien species in 2024. Both national and EU invasive alien species Lists are the core of the IAS legislation and the

both lists have been updated regularly. Finnish Advisory Board for Invasive Alien Species delivers statements on invasive alien species, which are threatening ecosystems presently.

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

IAS Statute and Legislation

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
››› There are several ongoing projects, which include management actions for high-risk invasive species to wetland ecosystems. The methods for controlling these invasive species, such as predators harmful to wetland birds (mink and raccoon dog), are well known and established. However, the scope and continuity of these management measures are heavily reliant on project funding. To achieve long-term outcomes, the uncertainty of continuous funding poses significant risks to the effectiveness and sustainability of these management actions.
The project “Barents Invasive Alien Species: Strengthening the management of invasive alien species and related competence in the Barents region” (https://barents-ias.info/about-the-project/) runs from 2022 until 2024. It aims to activate inhabitants and actors of the Barents region for the management of invasive alien species. The project focuses on invasive alien plants and the pink salmon (humpback salmon) and operates in the Barents region in Norway, Sweden, and Finland.
VieKas LIFE (Finvasive LIFE, 2018–2023) concluded a project on awareness building, mapping and controlling of invasive alien plant species (IAS) in Finland. More information at: https://www.sll.fi/viekas-life-en/
Coastal eradication (Japanese rose, etc.) CoastNet LIFE and inspect projects have eradicated Japanese rose in coastal areas such as the Archipelago Sea, Valassaari and off the coast of Närpiö. CoastNet LIFE also conducted small predator trapping for mink and raccoon dog in bird waters. Many small carnivores have been caught in the Helmi habitat programme’s bird waters. In the Biodiversea LIFE project, alien predator trapping was carried out along the coast.
Removal of American Mink and Raccoon Dog on bird wetlands has only been successful with intense, broad and consistent hunting efforts. The SOTKA invasive predator project develops operating models for the management of invasive predators. More information in Finnish: https://www.riistanvuoksijulkaisu.fi/artikkelit/hoitosuunnitelmat/uusia-malleja-vieraspetojen-pyyntiin.html
Reed sweet-grass has also been removed successfully from coastal wetlands and is part of wetland maintenance.

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

4.4 Additional Information
››› Some archipelagic and coastal protection areas have systematic controlling and monitoring programs and reporting. In wetlands outside protected areas, hunting effort is not systematically monitored and data is not aggregated.

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
››› New areas for further designation of Ramsar Sites have been identified (11 sites). An assessment of the protected area network is being prepared according to the EU biodiversity strategy. In Finland the Ramsar sites are designated within existing conservation areas, such as National Parks, nature reserves and Natura 2000 sites.

5.2 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {5.3}
☑ E=# Sites

››› 47

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

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

››› None (management measures are always documented).

5.2 – 5.4 Additional information
››› All designated Ramsar sites in Finland are also Natura 2000 sites (overlapping completely or at least partly). All Natura 2000 sites (excluding 2 sites in Province of Åland) have been assessed for conservation feature status and threats, and conservation objectives and measures have been defined. These site-specific Natura 2000 site condition assessments (“NATA” for short) are updated periodically. The NATA assessment includes also an evaluation if a more detailed management plan is needed. NATAs are considered as formal management planning tools that apply for all Natura 2000 sites, and more detailed management plans with stakeholder involvement are usually done for national parks or other sites with more pressures. Currently (June 2024) the situation in Ramsar sites included in (sometimes several) Natura 2000 sites is as follows:
• 46 Ramsar sites are fully covered by a valid NATA. Needs for more detailed planning have been recognized for a few of these sites, which are being implemented in the ongoing Helmi Habitat Programme and LIFE projects. Two NATA assessed sites have an outdated detailed management plan which are to be updated.
• There are presently two Ramsar sites that do not have a NATA assessment nor any other type of management plan. (The sites are in Åland and updated information is not available at the time of the reporting).

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

If “yes”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites
If “partially”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites
If “planned”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites
☑ C=Partially

5.5 Additional information

Please provide the source links or upload the source documents here indicating the assessment tool used (e.g. Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), Resolution XII.15), and the source of the information.
››› Natura 2000 site condition assessment (NATA) have been done for 46 Ramsar sites which are also Natura 2000 sites. The NATA assessments include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the management of the site. Management plans are based on basic inventories of species and habitat types and include an analysis of threats and can also include hydrological monitoring and inventorying information.
A comprehensive international assessment of the management effectiveness of Finland’s protected areas was commissioned by Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland (PWF) and carried out by an independent expert group in 2023. As a part of the evaluation, assessments based on the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) were carried our in five protected areas, three of which are also Ramsar sites or include a Ramsar site. The three sites are Torronsuo National Park, Oulanka National Parks and Ekenäs Archipelago National Park which is part of Ramsar site of the Bird Wetlands of Hanko and Tammisaari. The METT assessment summaries are documented in: https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/julkaisu/management-effectiveness-evaluation-of-finlands-protected-areas-2023/

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

Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Finland’s Protected Areas 2023

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

››› 4

5.6 Additional information
››› Cross-sectoral management committees are formed for the preparation of detailed management plans for sites, when stakeholder involvement is necessary. Some of these committees remain constant. Currently Vanhankaupunginlahti Bay - Laajalahti Bay (Ramsar site number 9) area has a cross-sectoral management committee as does the Quark Archipelago (6), Lemmenjoki National Park (1521), and Oulanka National Park

(1525).

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

››› 14

5.7 Additional information

For example give the name and official number of the Site or Sites.
››› Vanhankaupunginlahti and Laajalahti Bays 3FI008
Patvinsuo National Park 3FI009
Martimoaapa – Lumiaapa – Penikat Mires 3FI010
Koitelainen Mires 3FI011
Kauhaneva - Pohjankangas National Park 3FI021
Lake Sysmäjärvi 3FI027
Lätäseno – Hietajoki Mires 3FI030
Lemmenjoki National Park 3FI031
Olvassuo Mires 3FI034
River Luiro Mires 3FI039
Sammuttijänkä – Vaijoenjänkä Mires 3FI041
Suurenaukeansuo – Isosuo Mires and Lake Pohjalampi 3FI044
Teuravuoma – Kivijärvenvuoma Mires 3FI045
Vassorfjärden Bay 3FI048

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.
››› Following the Standing Committee's Decision SC62-55 and the Secretariat's invitation for submitting proposals to strengthen the process of both including new Ramsar sites and updating the RIS for existing sites, Finland shared multiple observations and suggestions for improvement. The process for updating the RIS has been perceived as rather laborious and slow, requiring several rounds of revisions. Given the extensive handling time at the Secretariat's end, feedback on submissions is generally received only several months or up to over a year later. Therefore, it has been very challenging to reactivate the national process after several months (due to staff changes or the lack of capacity to schedule such a considerable amount of work on a short notice).

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
››› Evaluating threats and pressures is part of site condition assessment (NATA).
Citizens have internet-based mechanisms for contacting authorities if a site is threatened. Permits for any development actions are under monitoring. Montreaux Record has not yet been used in Finland.
Citizens can also report any findings of invasive species online.

7.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {7.2}
☑ O=No Negative Change

Section 3 - Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.
[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

Target 8

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

8.1 Does your country have a National Wetland Inventory (NWI)? {8.1}
☑ A=Yes

8.1 Additional information

For example, if “in progress” or “planned”, by when will it be completed?
››› Finland does not have a specific, all-inclusive national wetland inventory, but it can be estimated that wetlands cover about 135 523 km2 of the country´s land area. The data is collected from various sources and the % of change cannot be reliably estimated. The extent of peatlands has been estimated since the 1920’s in 5-10 year intervals by the National Forest Inventory, the other estimates are based mostly on topographic map data by the National Land Survey. In general, wetland area loss is not a significant issue in Finland where wetlands are very abundant, but degradation of wetland quality is. For example, 53% of all peatlands are drained according to the spatial ditching data available. However, more specific individual peatland level data on the ecological changes is still missing due to vast number of partially changed peatlands. This figure does not include peatlands that have been converted for agriculture, and the total extent of small wetlands is unknown. Also the extent of human-made wetlands is unknown.
Extensive efforts have been made to map marine biodiversity. Since 2004, data has been collected from over 170,000 observation points in the Velmu programme. This information on species occurrence, habitats, biotopes, environmental conditions and human impact is accessible to the public through an open map service: https://velmu.syke.fi/

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

Underwater marine biodiversity mapping, Velmu programme

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

8.2 Additional information
››› Updating the sources is a continuous process. Wetland data (type and condition) is part of the Finnish PA network habitat database, which is updated continuously and as part of different projects.

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?
☑ B=Irregularly ≥ 7 years

8.3 Additional information
››› Updating the sources is a continuous process. Wetland data (type and condition) is part of the Finnish PA network habitat database, which is updated continuously and as part of different projects.

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?
››› Some data are public domain and updated regularly, others are based on specific needs or projects.

8.5 Please explain how the NWI data/information is maintained if at all? {8.3}
››› The protected area habitat data with wetland types and their condition is maintained in the PA network spatial habitat database governed by Parks and Wildlife Finland. The data is updated as a continuous process and through different projects.

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

››› 135 523 km2

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km2)
››› 9288

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

››› 126235

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	☐ P=Status improved ☑ O=No change ☐ N=Status deteriorated
b) All wetlands in your country	☐ P=Status improved ☐ O=No change ☑ 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	☐ 5=major improvement ☐ 4=improvement ☐ 3=no change ☑ 2=deterioration ☐ 1=major deterioration
b) Inland	☐ 5=major improvement ☐ 4=improvement ☐ 3=no change ☑ 2=deterioration ☐ 1=major deterioration
c) Human-made	☐ 5=major improvement ☐ 4=improvement ☑ 3=no change ☐ 2=deterioration ☐ 1=major deterioration

8.8 Additional Information

››› The overall national assessment for many wetland ecosystems reveals that they are deteriorating in near future. Although restoration and management of wetland ecosystems is increasing it is not likely to be enough to compensate the losses resulting from slow deterioration. It should be noted that due to increased consideration of wetlands and the increased restoration and management efforts the overall deterioration process is slow, but can be significant for small and rare habitats.

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

	Yes
a) Access to data and data acquisition standards	☐
b) Wetland delineation methods and approaches	☐
c) Habitat classifications	☐
d) Standardization in data interpretation methods	☐
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	☐
f) Resources	☑
g) Relevant skills	☐

h) Data collection and mapping	☑
i) Collaboration	☐
j) Others	☐

8.9 Additional Information

e.g explain others as referred to in (j)
››› Small wetlands (streams, springs, ephemeral wetlands) and artificial wetlands do not have consistent data so far. In addition, many of the largest peatland ecosystems lack more specific data on their ecological state. Remote sensing development is in progress, but more time and resources are needed due to the vast overall area where more accurate data is needed to complement the coarse data on the level of drainage on these areas.

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.I3, XIII.14, XIII.16, XIV.17 and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)) to achieve sustainable development.

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

8.10 Additional Information
››› Main needs include internationally agreed methods for estimating the value of ecosystem services or Nature Based Solutions of wetland ecosystem functions, which would allow international markets to apply them. Especially peatland carbon storage value, when converted into economically feasible units or Carbon Credits, would be likely to advance the conservation and wise use of peatland habitats in Finland.

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}
☑ C=In Preparation

9.1 Additional information
››› Finland’s National Ramsar Wetlands Action Plan 2016–2020 was prepared as part of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Finland for 2012–2020. However, it was decided that instead of updating the action plan as a separate document, wetland conservation and wise use are integrated in the new national biodiversity strategy and action plan that is in preparation and due to be approved in 2024.

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
››› The Nature Conservation Act from 1997 was updated to meet the latest conservation needs and Finland's obligations derived from EU legislation, especially from the EU Bird and Habitats Directives and the international convention on biological diversity. It entered into force in June 2023 (https://ym.fi/en/nature-conservation-legislation). As for wetlands, e.g. the elimination of invasive alien species from protected areas was simplified. This concerns e.g. mink and raccoon dog, two alien species that may significantly weaken aquatic bird populations. Additionally, eelgrass and stonewort beds were added in the new Nature Conservation Act as protected habitats (64 §). These habitats occur in shallow marine areas.

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

Nature Conservation Legislation

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
››› Finland is divided into eight river basin districts for the planning of water protection, each of which has their own river basin management plan. These plans, along with their corresponding action plans, provide detailed information on the condition of water bodies, the factors impacting them, and the measures needed to restore inland and coastal waters to good condition by 2027. Additionally, flood risks are assessed and managed. Efforts are being made to better integrate the objectives of nature conservation with water usage. Furthermore, water accounts are being developed. The EU Water Framework Direct obliges all Member States to draw up river basin management plans for their territories. More information at https://ym.fi/en/management-of-water-resources-and-marine-environments-in-finland and https://seuranta.vaikutavesiin.fi/en/river-basin-management-measures/.

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

River Basin Management Measures

Management of Water Resources and Marine Environments in Finland

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
››› Citizens and other stakeholders can influence and participate in water management planning in regional cooperation groups coordinated by the Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment. Additionally, consultations are held at various stages of water management planning, where all citizens can provide feedback.

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
››› National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2030 Wellbeing, safety and security in a changing climate was launched in 2024 (https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/165337). Its target 12 ("Nature-based solutions are established and have increased society's preparedness for climate risks, improved water protection and increased biodiversity by 2030"). One means for monitoring the implementation of the target is the number of new multifunctional wetlands (number/year) and Wetlands covered by environmental contracts (ha).

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

National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2030

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 National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2030 recognizes the critical role of wetlands in climate change mitigation and adaptation. More information at: https://mmm.fi/en/nature-and-climate/climate-change-

adaptation/national-climate-change-adaptation-plan-2030

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

National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2030

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
››› Artificial wetlands are being planned and implemented across various regions of the country to reduce agricultural runoff and enhance the biodiversity and sustainability of agricultural landscapes.
In the Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry until 2027 (available at http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-366-601-6) under target 7 (“The comprehensive sustainable management of water resources in agriculture and forestry has advanced since 2022”) includes a sub-action to “Promote the adoption of multifunctional and natural measures in water management through advice, training, and the construction of wetlands and channels”.

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

Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan

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	☐ C=Planned ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) climate change	☐ C=Planned ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
c) valuation of ecoystem services	☐ C=Planned ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

9.8 Additional information
››› a: Research and monitoring actions are carried out continuously by e.g. Finnish Environment Institute and the Natural Resources Institute Finland especially on water quality.
b: Research is carried out especially in relation to peatlands.
c: Research is carried out in relation to e.g. multiple use of shores, health issues, tourism and recreational use of nature, carbon sequestration etc.

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

9.9 Additional information
››› Numerous small-scale restoration projects, particularly those involving small streams and lake ecosystems, are being carried out in urban and peri-urban wetlands. The wise use of wetlands is also gaining attention, for example, through increased consideration of cities’ and companies’ ecological footprint calculations and ecological compensations. However, the primary focus remains on larger-scale restoration efforts in non-urban areas.

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
››› Special attention to inventory, restoration and conservation of small water bodies is paid in the Helmi habitats programme initiated in 2020. Small water bodies include creeks, brooks and trickles, ponds and springs, and lagoons shaped by land uplift along the coast (flads and glo-lakes).

Target 10
The traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected,

subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

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

10.1 Additional Information
››› The rights of the Sámi, indigenous people in Finland, are safeguarded by virtue of international treaties and the obligations laid down in the Constitution of Finland and other laws. Safeguarding and respecting the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination is central to all these obligations. The Sámi have a significant role in land use planning in the Sámi Homeland, ensuring that their traditional ways of life are considered in decisions about land use and natural resource management.

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?
☑ C1= Partially

10.2 Additional Information
››› Cultural aspects are an important part of creating management plans for protected areas. These plans aim to balance the goals of nature conservation, recreational use, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

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
››› Principles of Protected Area Management in Finland (https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/assets/pdf/lp/Bsarja/b203.pdf) covers also the practices of conservation and management of cultural values and heritage. Cultural values of all existing Ramsar sites have been assessed for the RSIS update process.

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

Principles of Protected Area Management in Finland

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.
››› Participation of locals and stakeholders is common practice in management planning on state land and is obligated e.g. in the Act on the Sámi Parliament and the Principles of Protected Area Management in Finland.
In Finland, the Akwé: Kon guidelines are used when assessing the cultural, environmental and social impacts of projects and plans in the Sámi Homeland that may affect the Sámi culture, livelihoods and cultural heritage. Operating model on the national application of the Akwé: Kon guidelines has been used since 2011: https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/julkaisu/akwe-kon-operating-models-application-in-the-cooperation-between-metsahallitus-and-the-sami-parliament/
The Natural Resource Plan for the Sámi Homeland 2022-2027 guides the sustainable use of state-owned land and water in the Sámi homeland. It aims to balance resource management with the preservation of Sámi culture, involving local communities and stakeholders in the planning process. The plan was developed in cooperation with the Sámi people, following the Akwé: Kon guidelines: https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/julkaisu/saamelaisten-kotiseutualueen-luonnonvarasuunnitelma-2022-2027/
In 2021, the Sámi Parliament published guidelines on the interpretation and application of legal norms concerning the Sámi in matters related to the environment and land use: https://samediggi.fi/vastuualueet/elinkeinot-oikeus-ja-ymparisto/saamelaisia-koskevien-oikeusnormien-tulkinta-ja-soveltaminen/
The Sámi people are also involved in planning and implementing the national biodiversity strategy, and locally involved in management of the Ramsar sites in the Sámi Homeland.

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
››› Principles of Protected Area Management in Finland (https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/assets/pdf/lp/Bsarja/b203.pdf) covers also the practices of conservation and management of cultural values and heritage.

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

Principles of Protected Area Management in Finland

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
››› Wetland ecosystem benefits, e.g. water filtration and carbon storages are widely recognized in Finland. Major ongoing updating to this knowledge is the effects of restoration of different kind of wetlands, which is not always linear and needs guidelines for best practices etc.
For example, in the Meriavain project (2018-2021), information was produced about the distribution, abundance, and quality of marine habitats in Finnish marine areas. The project described the ecosystem services provided by the most important key habitats and evaluated a monetary value of selected ecosystem services. More information at: https://www.metsa.fi/projekti/meriavain/

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

Meriavain project

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
››› All the projects listed in the under the section on “national implementation progress and challenges” in this report have effect through increased biodiversity and recreational value.

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

11.4 Additional information

If “yes” or “partially”, please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names
››› In the management planning process socio-economic values are partially taken into consideration.

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
››› In the management planning process cultural values have been taken into consideration in Ramsar -sites.

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
››› The updated Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for NATURA 2000 in FINLAND for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 – 2027 includes prioritized needs for wetland habitat restoration. Restoration of peatlands and bird wetlands is based on prioritized need in the Helmi habitats programme.
Finland is committed to achieving the goals and targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy fo 2030 and the The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), including their targets on restoration of ecosystems. Targets have also risen from several complementary based prioritization analyses. Supplementation programme for mire conservation includes high end spatial prioritization identifying also needs for filling in the gaps in current PA network. Targets for wetland restoration have also been identfied through a spatial prioritization on ecosystem restoration and management in the Finnish PA network. Prioritization based targets are also included in the assessment of wetlands that are important for birds. Quantitative targets rise also e.g. from act on financing of sustainable forestry: support for management actions.

12.2 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {12.1}
☑ C=Partially

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			20km2
Inland			400km2
Human-made			5km2

12.3 Additional information

Explain/clarify the data/statistics presented in the table above
››› The figures are rough estimates on finnished restoration actions (restored area) collated from several sources and including the work on government and private lands by government agencies and NGO:s

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
››› The global resources are acknowledged when assessing the importance of peatlands in Finland.
The subject is part of the primary school curriculum. The subject could be improved in professional education for e.g. forestry.
The State has made a classification for sustainable use on peatlands in 2014.
Sustainable means for forestry in peatland soils is an ongoing discussion in Finland.
Finland is active in international cooperation with especially the Baltic-Nordic states.
Peatland issues are being actively discussed to improve wise use, and peatlands and climate are being considered in updating and designating new Ramsar sites.

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	☑ D=Planned ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
b) Mining	☑ D=Planned ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
c) Agriculture	☑ D=Planned ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
d) Tourism	☑ D=Planned ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
e) Urban development	☑ D=Planned ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
f) Infrastructure	☑ D=Planned ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
g) Industry	☑ D=Planned ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
h) Forestry	☑ D=Planned ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
i) Aquaculture	☑ D=Planned ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
j) Fisheries	☑ D=Planned ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes

13.1 Additional Information

››› While taking note of the progress so far in highlighting the importance of wetlands and biodiversity across different sectors, it is vital to note simultaneously that there is always significant room for improvement when aligning different sectors and interests in making sure the wise and sustainable use of wetlands is considered. Finland thus remains dedicated in further enhancing collaboration between different sectors in effectively including wise and sustainable use of wetlands. For these reasons, the option D) Planned was best chosen to describe the current and ongoing situation.

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

››› Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) are done, for example, in relation to river basin management planning and marine planning and updating of national legislation.

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 Assessments are made for all development projects as decreed in the legislation. The authority in charge of granting the permit handles the matter and decides on the permit. If a project or plan is likely to have significant adverse effects on the ecological value of a site included in the Natura 2000 network (all Ramsar sites in Finland), an assessment of its impact needs to be conducted. The same applies to any project or plan outside the site which is liable to have a significantly harmful impact on the site (as decreed in the Nature Conservation Act of Finland).

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.
››› Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative: Denmark, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, Russian Federation (north-western regions). However, currently any active work of the Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative is on hold due to the Russian aggression on Ukraine.

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	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=In Progress ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
b) Sub-national level	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=In Progress ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
c) Catchment/basin level	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=In Progress ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
d) Local/site level	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=In Progress ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

16.1 Additional information

If “yes” or “in progress” to one or more of the four categories above
››› Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland and Regional Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment are responsible of the site level CEPA work. A communication plan is made annually for Liminganlahti wetland centre.

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

››› 13

b) at other wetlands
☑ X=Unknown

16.2 Additional information

››› In Finland there is only one Wetland Centre (Liminka Bay Visitor Centre) at Liminganlahti Bay Area -Ramsar site. Liminka Bay is part of The Wetland Link International network and Migratory Birds for People programme. 11 visitor or nature centres are handling customer service and nature education of the nearby Ramsar area. Those are run (at least in co-operation) by Metsahallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland and they include: Kellokas Visitor Centre (Teuravuoma-Kivijarvenvuoma Mires), Kilpisjärvi Visitor Centre (Lätäseno- Hietajoki Mires), Koli Visitor Centre (Patvinsuo National Park), Naava Visitor Centre (River Luiro Mires), Oulanka Visitor Centre (Oulanka National Park and Riisitunturi National Park), Science Centre Pilke (Martimoaapa- Lumiaapa-Penikat Mires), Saimaa Visitor Centre (Siikalahti Bay Area), Siida visitor centre (Lemmenjoki National Park and Sammuttijänkä-Vaijoenjänkä Mires), Syöte Visitor Centre (Olvassuo Mires), Fell Lapland Visitor Centre (Sotkavuoma Mires). Two Ramsar sites has visitor or education centres run by local municipality: World Heritage Gateway (Quark Archipelago) and Villa Elfvik (Vanhankaupunginlahti Laajalahti).

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	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

16.3 Additional information

››› Stakeholders are invited to participate the planning committees of management plans and public hearings are held at various stages of planning processes.

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

☑ B=No

16.4 Additional information

››› Finland had a national Ramsar wetlands committee until 2022, after which the plan has been to integrate the work in the national biodiversity strategy and its action plan. The strategy and the action plan are planned to be approved in 2024.

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	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) other MEA national focal points	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
c) other ministries, departments and agencies	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

16.6 Additional information

››› Parks & Wildlife Finland is responsible for most of the Ramsar sites in Finland. NFP, STRP and CEPA national focal points are appointed from Parks & Wildlife Finland.
Ministry of the Environment has established working group among Finland’s MEA National Focal Points which engages also other ministries, departments and agencies.

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}
☑ B=No

16.7 Additional information
››› No national campaigns were undertaken during the reporting period, but different stake holders may have done events separately.

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}
☑ B=No

16.8 Additional information
››› No national campaigns were undertaken during the reporting period, but each site may have done awareness raising separately during the World Wetlands Day.

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

16.9 Additional Information
››› There is extensive information available especially on the Ramsar Sites that are also National Parks, e.g. Lemmenjoki National Park: https://www.nationalparks.fi/lemmenjokinp.
The online service of the Red List of Habitats presents the results of the 2018 assessment of the status of Finland's habitats, including different kinds wetland habitats (https://luontotyyppienuhanalaisuus.ymparisto.fi/lutu/#/).
The online website provides a comprehensive overview of the state of Finnish marine nature and the ongoing changes: https://www.ymparisto.fi/fi/luonto-vesistot-ja-meri/meri/suomen-meriympariston-tila-2024
Additionally, information about Finland's wetlands and their status is provided e.g.
in the publications on 1) the use of peatlands (available only in Finnish: https://www.suoseura.fi/ojitettujen-soiden-kestava-kaytto/soiden-kaytto-suomessa/), 2) Marine Biodiversity Loss in Coastal Areas of Finland (https://luontopaneeli.fi/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/finnish-nature-panel-publications-1a-2024-marine-biodiversity-loss.pdf) and 3) on the impacts of peatland restoration on biodiversity, water quality and climate (only in Finnish) (https://luontopaneeli.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/suomen-luontopaneelin-julkaisuja-3b-2021-soiden-ennallistamisen-vaikutukset.pdf).

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

Report on the impacts of peatland restoration on biodiversity, water quality and climate

Report on Marine Biodiversity Loss in Coastal Areas of Finland

Publications on the use of peatlands in Finland

Online service of the Red List of Habitats

Lemmenjoki National Park

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?	☑ Z=Not applicable ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
b) from non-national or multilateral development assistance agencies?	☑ Z=Not applicable ☐ B=No ☐ 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.
››› Voluntary contribution of the Ministry of the Environment of Finland to support activities of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, especially preparations of the Global Wetland Outlook: 5000 euros in 2023.

Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels

18.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the national Ramsar /wetland committee? {18.1}
☑ B=No

18.1 Additional information
››› Not applicable. Coordination among Finland’s MEA Focal Points is done via the working group of the Ministry of the Environment, effectively coordinating the work involving all MEAs and emphasizing the importance of synergies and a joint effort in enhancing biodiversity conservation. There is no longer a separate national wetland committee in Finland.

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
››› There is close cooperation between focal points of relative global and regional conventions and bodies, crosscutting the importance of wetland conservation as a biodiversity related question as well as an emerging human rights question. Administrative Authority in Finland works simultaneously as the focal point for Bern Convention and Raptors Memorandum of Understanding, with a special focus on species protection, working in close cooperation with fellow focal points for other important MEAs involving also wetland conservation. Working group of the Ministry of the Environment on MEA cooperation has been in place since the beginning of 2017 and meets regularly. Within human rights, Finnish focal point representation of Council of Europe meets annually, highlighting the Reykjavik process and the interconnectedness of environments and human rights.

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	☐
b) FAO	☐
c) UNECE	☐
d) UNFCCC	☐
e) Global Environment Facility	☐
f) UNDP	☐
g) UNESCO	☐
h) World Health Organization	☐

i) World Meteorological Organization	☐
j) ITTO	☐
k) The Convention's IOPs	☑

18.3 Additional information

For example describe the support and indicate the amount of funding.
››› BirdLife Finland conducts bird monitoring in the coordination of Finnish Zoological Museum. Bird censuses on internationally important bird areas (IBA) are part of BirdLife's global bird monitoring program.

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

18.5 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {18.6}
☑ A=Yes

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

18.6 Additional information
››› There are transboundary water commissions between Finland and both Sweden and Norway. Transboundary Water Commissions handle all kinds of measures which may have a transboundary impact, and they also supervise and monitor the transboundary watercourses.

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
››› Finland is a Contracting Party to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) since 2000.

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}
☑ C=Partially

19.1 Additional information
››› Parks & Wildlife Finland, manager of Finland's national protected area network and most of the Ramsar sites, was part of an European-wide capacity building project in 2021-2024. The primary purpose of the LIFE ENABLE project was to enable Natura 2000 and Protected Area managers to become more effective, competent and confident nature management professionals (https://www.metsa.fi/en/project/life-enable-project/). One of the key actions was the creation of a Group Competence assessment tool for Natura 2000 site managers (all Ramsar sites have also Natura 2000 designations in Finland). The tool was tested by Parks & Wildlife Finland's national water team, and the results of the training needs assessment were used to inform capacity-building plans.

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

LIFE ENABLE project

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

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

☑ C=Partially

19.3 Additional information
››› Primary school curriculum is based on the study path of sustainable development. The curriculum includes many wetland and land use topics.

19.4 How many training events for wetland site managers have occurred since COP14? {19.3}
a) at Ramsar Sites
☑ X=Unknown

b) at other wetlands
☑ X=Unknown

19.4 Additional information
››› One of the key results of the LIFE ENABLE project (see 19.1) was the creation of the new “European Nature Academy”, a European training programme for nature managers. One of the two piloted training programmes was concentrated on marine protected area management. Finnish protected area managers, working also with wetland sites, took part in the training programmes in 2023 and 2024.

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