



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>

>>> Georgia

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Ramsar_NR.pdf](#)

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

>>> Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Biodiversity and Forest Department

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

>>> Carl Amirgulashvili - Head of Biodiversity and Forest Department

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Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title

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>>> salome.nozadze@mepa.gov.ge

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

Name and title

>>> Tamar Pataridze

Name of organisation

>>> Caucasus Nature Fund, Regional Conservation Director

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>>> Caucasus Nature Fund —Programme Office Georgia

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>>> +995599934004

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

Name and title

>>> Khatuna Katsarava, Head of Administrative Division

Name of organisation

>>> Kolkheta National Park Administration

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>>> +995577101837

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>>> Khatuna.Katsarava@apa.gov.ge

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

Name and title

>>> Irakli Shavgulidze, Chair of Board

Name of organisation

>>> Nacres-Biodiversity Conservation and Research Centre

Mailing address

>>> 29 Besarion Jgenti St, Tbilisi, Georgia

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>>> +995 322 5371 25

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>>> irakli.shavgulidze@nacres.org

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

Name and title

>>> Nino Kiknadze, Specialist within Sustainable Development Division

Name of organization

>>> Agency of Protected Areas

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Phone

>>> +995 598959055

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>>> Nino.Kiknadze@apa.gov.ge

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)
>>> Colchic Forest and Wetlands have received the status of World Heritage Sites of UNESCO
- 2)
>>> River Basin management plans for large river basins have been elaborated in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive;
- 3)
>>> Management plans of all Ramsar sites/Protected Areas have been adopted.
- 4)
>>> National level Concept and Strategy of Protected and Conserved Areas is under development. These policy documents outline the priorities and principles for development of the protected areas, as well as global and regional ecological networks, such as Ramsar Sites of wetlands.
- 5)
>>> To strengthen the management and regulatory mechanisms of Ramsar sites and fulfill the obligations under the Ramsar Convention, Georgia has developed a draft Law on Biological Diversity. The draft includes an entire chapter dedicated to the management, protection, and sustainable use of Ramsar sites, ensuring comprehensive governance of these ecologically significant areas.

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

- 1)
>>> Country-level wetland inventory is a challenge, like for many other countries. The cause of this situation is the lack of financial resources, partially methodology and relevant research workers.
- 2)
>>> Assessment of ecosystem services delivered by the wetlands, understanding and dissemination as well as non-formal education related to the wetlands, traditional activities related to wetlands.
- 3)
>>> Lack of mainstreaming of Wetlands conservation and its wise use through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.
- 4)
>>> Resource mobilization for implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024
- 5)
>>> Lack of education and public awareness about wetlands

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

- 1)
>>> Finalisation of Wetland inventory on a national level
- 2)
>>> Enhancement and approval of national legislation, and further implementation
- 3)
>>> Translation of the new National Policy of Protected and other Conserved Areas into legislation and implement its principles and priorities.
- 4)
>>> Enhancement of raising awareness and communication network among stakeholders in the country.

5)

>>> proposing new sites for adoption as a Ramsar site

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

>>> Support Parties in development of the wetland classifications possibly through harmonization with other global Conventions, including through the written crosswalks for translating the different global classifications with each other.

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)?

>>> Support Parties in development of the wetland classifications possibly through harmonization with other global Conventions, including through the written crosswalks for translating the different global classifications with each other.

Provide resources for methodologies and assessments of wetland ecosystem services.

Support transboundary capacity building, including through identification of wetlands, wetland monitoring and assessment of ecological characteristics of the transboundary and borderline wetlands.

F. In accordance with paragraph 21 of Resolution XIII.18 on Gender and wetlands, please provide a short description about the balance between genders participating in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research.

>>> The stakeholders involved in Ramsar wetlands are diverse, with both men and women equally engaged. The managing agencies of Ramsar wetlands include women in leadership roles, alongside men. Organizations interested in and working on wetlands are inclusive of men and women, with no limitations from a gender perspective. The guides working on-site, as well as the administrators and natural resource managers, are composed of both men and women.

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

>>> Not at this point

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

>>> They are no specific surveys and data in wetlands.

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

>>> There are no policy documents specific to wetlands.

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).

>>> At present, we are facing capacity constraints, particularly in light of the need to fulfill other key obligations under the Ramsar Convention, such as the completion of a national wetland inventory. However, we are working towards the nomination of a Youth Focal Point, who we anticipate will provide valuable support in the implementation of Resolution XIV.12.

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

>>> Agency of Protected Areas; Nacres, Ilia State University, Relevant departments of the Ministry, National Environmental Agency;

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 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 |
| b) Poverty eradication strategies | <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 |
| c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans | <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes |
| d) Coastal and marine resource management plans | <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes |
| e) Integrated coastal zone management plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes |
| f) National forest management plan/strategies | <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes |
| k) National policies on urban development | <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes |
| l) National policies on infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes |
| m) National policies on industry | <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 |
| n) National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3} | <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" 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 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 |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes |

1.1 Additional information

>>> National forest management plan/strategies - Riparian forest habitats are entirely dependent on river ecosystems and their flooding patterns. According to forestry legislation, no forestry activities are permitted within 100 meters of the riverbank. Additionally, riparian or riverine forests are classified as protective forests

under the National Forest Code (Article 9).

According to subsoil legislation, subsoil users must comply with regulations that outline measures to prevent the pollution of waterbodies from oil, gas, and other substance leakages.

A new law on water resources has been adopted, aligning with the principles of the EU Water Directive. The law aims to protect and improve the condition of water resources, as well as the terrestrial and wetland ecosystems directly dependent on them.

In accordance with this law, Georgia is developing integrated plans to protect and sustainably manage river basins, flood risks, and shorelines. These plans also include statutory provisions focused on safeguarding wetland ecosystems from pollution caused by agriculture, wastewater, industrial sources, and other relevant legislations.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) of Georgia are planned to be updated this year in order to make it more ambitious, where the role of wetlands is planned to be highlighted more effectively.

Target 2

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

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

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

☒ A=Yes

2.1 Additional Information

>>> The guidelines were not specifically addressed through separate meetings or discussions with other ministries. However, the principles outlined in the guidelines were taken into account when developing new legislation, such as the Law of Georgia on Water Resources and the Environmental Assessment Code of Georgia, along with their relevant subsidiary legislation. These principles are applied in practice daily when reviewing Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), and Appropriate Assessments (AA) of various infrastructure projects.

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

☒ A=Yes

2.2 Additional Information

>>> The Environmental Assessment Code of Georgia provides a framework for conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) to mitigate the effects of activities on the environment includes examining impacts on biodiversity, water, and ecosystems, which can implicitly encompass considerations related to wetland flows if relevant to the proposed activity. The Code considers examining impacts on biodiversity, water, and ecosystems, which can implicitly encompass considerations related to wetland flows if relevant to the proposed activity. Mitigation plans are mandatory, which include measures to prevent or reduce adverse effects on ecosystems such as wetlands.

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

>>> Conditions have improved since their inclusion in the system of protected areas and Ramsar sites, as there are now defined measures for sustainable use and management. They are overseen by management and control bodies, such as the Agency of Protected Areas and the Environmental Supervision Department. Additionally, their protected status helps prevent large infrastructure projects from being developed in these areas.

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

☒ A=Yes

2.4 Additional Information

>>> the principles outlined in the guidelines were taken into account when developing new legislation, such as

the Law of Georgia on Water Resources and the Environmental Impact Assessment Code of Georgia, along with their relevant subsidiary legislation. These principles are applied in practice daily when reviewing Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), and Appropriate Assessments (AA) of various infrastructure projects.

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}

☒ B=No

2.5 Additional Information

>>> N/A

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

☒ B=No

Target 3

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

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

3.1 Has your country put in place policies, including incentives, guidelines or other instruments to encourage the private sector to apply the wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in activities and investments related to wetlands? {3.1}

☒ C=Partially

3.1 Additional Information

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

>>> In frames of ongoing project "Restoring the Javakheti wetlands for people and birds" in Javakheti Plateau, there is a plan to assess the state of majority of lakes, assess their threats and plan incentives, if the assessment will require so. The incentives might be required since the only economic field in the region is agriculture.

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

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

☒ C=Partially

3.3 Additional information

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

>>> This response is partially implemented. The Rural Development Agency, operating under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, manages several incentive programs. While these programs are not directly targeted at wetlands, they aim to co-finance local farmers to support and encourage the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices.

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.

>>> A detailed and comprehensive report was developed by BIOFIN in 2021 and 2022 on proposed biodiversity indicators for subsidy programs. The report, titled Action Plan on Repurposing Selected Subsidies, was prepared as part of the UNDP/BIOFIN finance solution, Measuring and Addressing Potential Adverse Impacts on Biodiversity from Agricultural Subsidies. It explores the integration of biodiversity considerations into agricultural programs, recommends monitoring the impacts of subsidies using biodiversity and socio-economic indicators, and provides associated cost estimates. Furthermore, the report proposes the introduction of a new pro-biodiversity subsidy. While this initiative is not explicitly targeted at wetlands, they are expected to benefit significantly from its implementation. These recommendations have been developed; however, their execution necessitates long-term planning, including comprehensive financial planning.

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

>>> The national concept of invasive alien species (IAS) has been developed and is currently undergoing expert and public consultation processes. The document is based on a comprehensive inventory study of IAS in Georgia and identifies the most harmful invasive species.

In addition, separate studies have been conducted for specific species at risk from invasive alien species or pathogens.

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}

☒ D=Planned

4.2 Additional information

>>> The document mentioned in 4.1 is relevant for wetlands as well.

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

☒ E=# species

>>> 2

4.3 Additional Information

>>> The management plan for Kolkheti Protected Areas has incorporated measures addressing the several identified invasive species, among them are *Gleditsia triacanthus* and *Amorpha fruticosa*, which pose threats to the Colchic lowlands and wetlands. However, achieving this objective necessitates the development of a dedicated and detailed plan for the effective control of these invasive species.

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

☒ B=No

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}

☒ C=Partially

5.1 Additional information

>>> Although a specific framework for wetlands has not been established, priorities for the further designation of Ramsar sites have already been outlined. Further implementation will be supported through the integration of these priorities into the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 4

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 4

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 0

5.2 – 5.4 Additional information

>>> All Ramsar Sites currently overlap with IUCN-designated Protected Areas. Some are designated as Natural Reserve, while others fall under National Parks, or managed reserves. Each site is managed by an integrated management plan, which is implemented by the Agency for Protected Areas, under the Ministry's oversight.

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

>>> 4

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.

>>> All four Ramsar sites in Georgia overlap with IUCN-designated Protected Areas. The management authority for both protected area statuses is the Agency of Protected Areas, which regularly updates the assessment of management effectiveness using the METT Tool 4.

These assessments are conducted for each protected area, including the Ramsar sites. Currently, METT assessments are being developed for 10 protected areas, including all four Ramsar sites.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 0

5.6 Additional information

>>> Not relevant

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 4

5.7 Additional information

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

>>> Ecological character of all 4 sites are delivered however there are several uncompleted fields such as for example habitat connectivity, carbon cycling, nutrient cycling..

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.

>>> Several RIS fields require completion. These require additional resources for the comprehensive field work. RIS, Shape files and other requested data were submitted and are placed on the web site accordingly for all 4 sites.

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

>>> In Georgia, there are legislative mechanisms in place to ensure that the Administrative Authority is informed of any negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites/Protected Areas, in accordance with Article 3.2 of the Ramsar Convention.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Code of Georgia (2021) provides a legal framework for assessing and mitigating potential negative impacts of projects or plans that may affect protected areas, including Ramsar Sites. Under this framework, any proposed development, plan, or project that may have a significant effect on the ecological character of a Ramsar Site must undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to determine the potential risks and impacts.

Another Mechanism in our current Ramsar Sites is the Law of Georgia on the System of Protected Areas, which establishes clear procedures for the protection of Ramsar Sites and other protected areas, ensuring that changes to their ecological character are monitored and mitigated. In particular, the law mandates that any plan or project likely to adversely affect the integrity of these areas must be subject to a thorough review. The competent authorities must assess whether the proposed actions will harm the conservation objectives of the site, and only approve them if it is determined that there will be no significant adverse impact.

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}

☒ A=Yes

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

>>> There was one case, where Georgia had made article 3.2 report for the Wetlands of Central Kolkheti.

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?

>>> "Identification, Delineation and Classification of Wetlands of Georgia", carried out by Ilia State University with financial support of GIZ, which happened in 2017-2018, has been the main step for the national wetland inventory, however the target area was West Georgia and it did not cover the whole country.

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

>>> The work has to continue, however there are no sufficient financial resources available.
There are some additional studies for the wetland habitats in other parts of Georgia, however these works happened following the EUNIS habitat classification, where one of the group is wetland habitats;

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ B=Irregularly \geq 7 years

8.3 Additional information

>>> There is no specific timeline for the update.

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

☒ A=Yes

8.4 Additional information

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

>>> A comprehensive national wetland inventory has not yet been completed. However, some fragmented data have recently become available, derived from various fieldwork conducted as part of different tasks and projects.

It is worth noting that the primary gaps pertain to the lower levels of wetland classification. While information is available on rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and other major water bodies, more detailed classifications are lacking. Addressing these gaps requires significant capacity building to effectively assess these habitats.

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

[Aquaculture](#)

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

>>> The information is maintained by Biodiversity and Forest Policy Department of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture. The National Biodiversity Monitoring System will have the spatial information available as interactive maps. However now it is under development;

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

>>> 8153

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>.

>>> The information provided in the fields below is incomplete and requires additional human and financial resources to finalize the inventory of wetlands and other habitats/ecosystems in Georgia. This effort must align with the guidelines and classifications of the Ramsar Convention. Furthermore, the process necessitates the additional work of aggregation and disaggregation of various existing databases to ensure comprehensive and accurate documentation.

For the numbers provided in the fields we used following sources :

-shapefiles delivered from the study "IDENTIFICATION, DELINEATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF WETLANDS OF GEORGIA"

- shapefiles of large rivers of Georgia (coming from digitalized old topographic maps, stored in MEPA)

- shapefiles coming from studies on floodplain forests on Mtkvari, Iori, Alazani Rivers;

- shapefiles delivered during various studies on Emerald Network and during preparation of Emerald Sites management plans.

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

| | |
|--|---|
| | Square kilometers (km²) |
|--|---|

| | |
|--|-----|
| A -- Permanent shallow marine waters | |
| B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds | |
| C -- Coral reefs | |
| D -- Rocky marine shores | |
| E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores | 3.5 |
| F -- Estuarine waters | 0.2 |
| G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats | 0.8 |
| Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs | |
| H -- Intertidal marshes | |
| I -- Intertidal forested wetlands | |
| J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons | |
| K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons | |
| Zk(a) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems | |

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km2)

>>> 4

8.6 Inland Wetlands

| | Square kilometers (km2) |
|---|--------------------------------|
| L -- Permanent inland deltas | |
| M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls | 509 |
| N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks | |
| O -- Permanent freshwater lakes | 160 |
| P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes | |
| Q -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes | |
| R -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats | |
| Sp -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools | |

| | |
|---|---------|
| Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools | |
| Tp -- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools | 10 |
| Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils | 5322.39 |
| U -- Non-forested peatlands | 1350 |
| Va -- Alpine wetlands | 7.5 |
| Vt -- Tundra wetlands | |
| W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands | 53 |
| Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands | 297 |
| Xp -- Forested peatlands | 290 |
| Y -- Freshwater springs; oases. | |
| Zg -- Geothermal wetlands | |
| Zk(b) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems | |

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

>>> 7998

8.6 Human-made wetlands

| | Square kilometers (km2) |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 -- Aquaculture ponds. | 26.2 |
| 2 -- Ponds | |
| 3 -- Irrigated land | |
| 4 -- Seasonally flooded agricultural land | 1.21 |
| 5 -- Salt exploitation sites | |
| 6 -- Water storage areas | 124 |
| 7 -- Excavations | |
| 8 -- Wastewater treatment areas | |
| 9 -- Canals and drainage channels, ditches | |
| Zk(c) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems | |

8.6 Human-made wetlands total (km2)

>>> 151

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 |

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

| | Yes |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| a) Access to data and data acquisition standards | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Regulatory framework and governance structure | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Relevant skills | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Data collection and mapping | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i) Collaboration | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| j) Others | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

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

Target 9

The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone {1.3.}.

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

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

☒ A=Yes

9.1 Additional information

>>> Georgia does not have a specific national policy solely dedicated to wetlands. Instead, the sustainable management and use of wetland resources are integrated into a broader framework of policies, regulations, and legal instruments. These include the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the Concept for Protected and Conserved Areas, and the draft Law on Biological Diversity, among other measures.

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 draft Law on Biodiversity has been developed and submitted to the Parliament. This draft includes a dedicated chapter on the management and regulation of Ramsar wetlands, specifically aimed at ensuring the implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

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

>>> River basin-level water resource management is a new approach in Georgia, introduced in alignment with the newly adopted law on water resources. The draft river basin management plans incorporate the management of wetland ecosystems, ensuring a holistic approach to water and environmental protection.

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

>>> Throughout the development process, all relevant stakeholders have been actively involved. Several of the plans have already undergone public consultation. From the outset, a comprehensive stakeholder map was created, and regional stakeholders were invited to participate in targeted workshops, which were organized in various locations from 2022 to 2024.

Stakeholder engagement is a critical component of the process for developing and implementing River Basin Management Plans therefore the inclusive process will continue throughout all cycles.

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

☒ D=Planned

9.5 Additional information

>>> There is update of more ambitious NDCs planned, as well as development of the new climate action plan 2025-2027 where wetlands role is planned to be incorporated more accurately.

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

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ B=No

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

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

☒ A=Yes

9.9 Additional information

>>> One of the notable initiatives is the urban wetland site known as "Tbilisi Otter Island," which has been designated as an Emerald site under the Bern Convention. The site, located within the city of Tbilisi, is recognized for its ecological significance, particularly for the conservation of otter populations and the preservation of floodplain forest ecosystems. A draft management plan for the site has already been developed, outlining strategies for its continued protection and sustainable management. Tbilisi Otter Island plays a crucial role in maintaining local biodiversity by providing habitat for a variety of species, including migratory birds, and contributing to mental well-being and recreational ecosystem services.

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

>>> There are several regulatory documents on a National scale, for instance regarding water pollution control Ordinance of the Government N425 "On Approval of Technical Regulations for Protection of Surface Waters of Georgia from Pollution" or Ordinance of the Government N 414 "On Approval of Technical Regulations for Calculating Maximum Permissible Discharge (MPD) Norms of Pollutants Discharged with Wastewater into Surface Water Bodies".

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

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

☒ Y=Not relevant

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

☒ B=No

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}

☒ B=No

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

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}

☒ B=No

11.1 Additional information

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

>>> Such assessments have not been conducted as a separate study results, but represent a Gap and need. Recently there was a study elaborated on "Ecosystem Service Valuation and Cost-Benefit Analysis of Investment in Georgian Protected Areas" but not specific study on wetlands, however wetland ecosystem services are one of the keys in the mentioned document; Water provision and regulation is one of the sub-chapters where the role of rivers is highlighted;

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ A=Yes

11.4 Additional information

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

>>> For all 4 Ramsar sites in Georgia: Ispani Mire, Wetlands of Central Kolkheta, Bugdasheni lake and Madatapa Lake. Socio-economic values, such as provisional services of wetlands are recognized as a component in the management planning of our Ramsar Sites (within specific Protected Areas). This encompasses the sustainable use of wetlands to enhance their potential, creating a variety of services, particularly in the ecotourism sector, recreational activities; enhances food provision, and irrigation water supply, all in line with the obligations of the Ramsar Convention.

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

☒ B=No

11.5 Additional information

>>> For all 4 Ramsar sites in Georgia: Ispani Mire, Wetlands of Central Kolkheta, Bugdasheni lake and Madatapa

Lake.

Cultural values of wetlands are recognized more or less recognized in the management planning of our Ramsar Sites (within specific Protected Areas). This encompasses the sustainable use of wetlands for ecotourism, cultural tourism, preparing local handicrafts and organic food products, as well as education and scientific research, in accordance with the obligations of the Ramsar Convention.

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?

☒ D=Planned

12.1 Additional Information

>>> This activity is planned during elaboration of NBSAP

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

☒ D=Planned

12.2 Additional information

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

>>> There is an ongoing project with support of ENDANGERED LANDSCAPES PROGRAMME in the region of Javakheti, where there is an ongoing activity on assessment of needs for wetland restoration.

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 | | | |
| Inland | | | |
| Human-made | | | |

12.3 Additional information

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

>>> A restoration project has been initiated in Javakheti, and it is currently in the assessment phase, focusing on the prioritization of wetlands. This phase involves conducting biological and ecological assessments of the wetlands.

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

☒ C=Partially

Target 13

Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10 and 14]

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

Please select only one per square.

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

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

13.1 Additional Information

>>> The sustainability of wetlands is ensured in the implementation of all aforementioned projects through compliance with mainly Georgia's Environmental Impact Assessment Code and the Law on the System of Protected Areas.

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 legal provisions of Georgia's Environmental Impact Assessment Code serve as the primary mechanism for assessing and mitigating the potential harm from projects that may pose environmental risks. This process is applied in all relevant cases.

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

>>> In all cases

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}

☒ B=No

15.1 Additional information

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

>>> N/A

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}

☒ A=Yes

15.2 Additional information

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

>>> Supported Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI)-The International Mangrove Center (IMC)

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

16.1 Additional information

If "yes" or "in progress" to one or more of the four categories above

>>> N/A

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

☒ X=Unknown

16.2 Additional information

>>> Among these three are:

Kobuleti Protected Area administration and visitor center;

Kolkheti National Park administration and visitor center

Jvakheti Protected Areas administration and visitor center

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

>>> At this stage, participation of stakeholders, including local community is ensured by the Law of Georgia on System of Protected Areas by following:

- Agency of Protected Areas to closely cooperate with governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, and scientific advisory councils during planning, implementation, and management of projects related to protected areas.
- Scientific Advisory Councils are established for individual protected areas, include stakeholders from inter-agency and local self-government bodies.
- according to the Law, representatives of the public and associations have the right to participate in considering and amending decisions regarding the creation, development, reduction, and abolishment of protected areas, as well as management plans and statutes of administration.

The above mentioned Law is referenced because all Ramsar Sites protection is additionally strengthened by the status of national protected areas (IUCN categories).

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

☒ B=No

16.4 Additional information

>>> Not separately for Ramsar Wetlands, for the reason explained in the previous questions. But there is a Scientific Council established, where issues on wetlands are discussed as needed.

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

☒ B=No

16.6 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share the Convention's implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and: {16.6}

Please select only one per square.

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

16.6 Additional information

>>> a) Communication with the Ramsar site management body is conducted primarily through official channels. Engagements, including meetings, are most common during critical phases such as the development or revision of management plans, the assessment of management efficiency (e.g., through the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool, METT), and similar activities.

b) Interaction between the administrative authority and other National Focal Points (NFPs) for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) is generally informal and occurs during meetings or as necessary. This streamlined communication is facilitated by the co-location of all NFPs within the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, ensuring efficient and responsive collaboration.

c) Communication with other ministries and sectors typically follows formal channels. However, specific initiatives, such as the development of River Basin Management Plans, involve consultation workshops where representatives from all relevant sectors participate, fostering comprehensive and inclusive engagement.

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

>>> In 2024, a meeting was co-organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation & Research "NACRES." The event brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of local communities.

The meeting featured an exhibition showcasing products made within the Ramsar Wetlands of the Javakheti region. Participants were informed about the critical importance of wetlands, the obligations under the Ramsar Convention, and the conservation priorities for the unique subalpine lakes and migratory waterbirds of the Javakheti Plateau. Additionally, the gathering served as a platform to discuss upcoming plans and the conservation needs essential for safeguarding this ecologically significant ecosystem.

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

[WWD 2024](#)

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

>>> In addition to the large-scale meeting held in 2024, small-scale activities and events are organized annually at individual Ramsar Sites. These initiatives are led by the Agency of Protected Areas and aim to promote awareness, engagement, and conservation efforts at these ecologically significant locations.

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

>>> Usually information about Ramsar sites status is shared during raising awareness workshops and field-trips, ecoclubs, but also through social media and Ministry/Agency pages.

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

[Javakheti PA administration page](#)
[public info on Ramsar sites nomination](#)

Target 17

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

17.4 Has any financial support from the national budget been provided by your country to facilitate the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands? {17.6}

☒ A=Yes

17.4 Additional information

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

>>> Mainly the annual budget for the administration (Ramsar sites managers) operation costs, salaries, various lectures and public events;

Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels

18.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the national Ramsar /wetland committee? {18.1}

☒ A=Yes

18.1 Additional information

>>> See question 16.6

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 no official mechanism in place. Interaction between the administrative authority and other National Focal Points (NFPs) for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) is generally informal and occurs during meetings or as necessary. This streamlined communication is facilitated by the co-location of all NFPs within the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, ensuring efficient and responsive collaboration.

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

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

18.3 Additional information

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

>>> hroughout the past year, WWF has provided significant support to Georgia in the monitoring and

conservation of the Rioni River and its delta at the Black Sea. This assistance has been instrumental in advancing efforts to preserve the ecological integrity of this critical region.

Wetland international -

Birdlife international -

IUCN

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

18.5 Additional information

>>> The only relevant case pertains to the Javakheti Protected Areas in Georgia, which host two Ramsar Sites, and the Arpi Protected Area on the Armenian side, which is also Ramsar site. Over the years, significant efforts have been made to collaborate on the joint monitoring of waterfowl birds during migration seasons. However, this collaboration lacks sustainability and primarily relies on donor support.

Georgia and Armenia do not share a common legislative framework governing these two protected areas or their Ramsar Sites.

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

☒ Y=Not Relevant

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

>>> In 2022, Georgia chaired the "4th Joint meeting Bern Convention - Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds". As part of its active engagement, Georgia, along with other contracting parties, contributed to the development and later submitted the Illegal Killing of Birds (IKB) questionnaire.

Additionally, Georgia continues to serve as the Vice Chair of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Wild Birds under the Bern Convention, reinforcing its commitment to advancing international bird conservation efforts.

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

>>> There was no assessment paper produced, however the assessment of national needs was made in scope of the National Focal Point;

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ E=# opportunities

b) at other wetlands

☒ X=Unknown

19.4 Additional information

>>> The trainings for capacity building of the Protected Areas/Ramsar sites administrations are systematic and focus on various topics, such as patrolling, biodiversity monitoring, reporting skills, awareness raising and communication skills, ecotourism services etc.

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

{19.4}

☒ A=Yes

19.5 Additional information

>>> The information presented in this report is partially based on a review and update of the previous Ramsar National Report from Georgia.

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

Goal 2

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites

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

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Priority

☒ A=High

