



RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

Help desk

If you have any questions or problems, please contact Secretariat staff at nationalreports@ramsar.org. Use of this email address will facilitate a timely response from the Secretariat.

Link to online tutorials on how to access and use the ORS:

<https://www.ramsar.org/document/ramsar-online-reporting-system-tutorial>

Find previous reports here: <https://www.ramsar.org/search>

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

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

Section 1: Institutional Information

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

Name of Contracting Party

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

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

>>> Ghana

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

AA Letter.pdf - Letter from Head of Administrative Authority

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

>>> Wildlife Division, Forestry Commission - Ghana

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

>>> Dr. Joseph Boakye, Executive Director

Mailing address

>>> Ministries Post Office, P.O Box MB 239, Accra

Telephone

>>> +233 24 485 8604

Email

>>> josboakye@yahoo.com

Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title

>>> Dickson Agyemang, Wetland Operations Manager

Mailing address

>>> Ministries Post Office, P.O Box MB 239, Accra

Telephone

>>> +233 24 484 3464

Email

>>> yaw652006@yahoo.com

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

Name and title

>>> Christopher Gordon, Professor

Name of organisation

>>> University of Ghana

Mailing address

>>> P.O Box LG 209, Legon, Accra-Ghana

Telephone

>>> +233 26 811 7200

Email

>>> cgordon@ug.edu.gh

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

Name and title

>>> Ernestina Anie, Mrs.

Name of organisation

>>> Wildlife Division, Forestry Commission

Mailing address

>>> Ministries Post Office, P.O Box MB 239, Accra

Telephone

>>> +233 24 175 7685

Email

>>> anie.ernestina@yahoo.com

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

Name and title

>>> Emmanuel Taye, Mr.

Name of organisation

>>> Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research, University of Ghana

Telephone

>>> +233 26 802 3084

Email

>>> etaye32@gmail.com

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

Name and title

>>> James Selormey, Mr.

Name of organization

>>> Wildlife Division, Forestry Commission - Ghana

Mailing address

>>> Ministries Post Office, P.O Box MB 239, Accra

Phone

>>> +233 24 770 2819

Email

>>> jammie.blw@gmail.com

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)
>>> There has been an increase in knowledge and publicity about wetlands and their importance for the environment and local communities.
- 2)
>>> Improved monitoring, protection of wetland habitats and wildlife species and wetland restoration activities as part of climate change mitigation initiatives like the Green Ghana programme and other site specific projects.
- 3)
>>> Increased actions towards a comprehensive national wetland inventory through various wetland conservation projects.
- 4)
>>> Training of wetland staff in wetland management activities
- 5)
>>> Increased collaboration between relevant stakeholders and involvement of private sector in wetland conservation issues.

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

- 1)
>>> Outdated National Wetlands Conservation Strategy & Action Plan and limited funding for implementation of wetland management programmes and activities.
- 2)
>>> Weak and conflicting laws and policies affecting wetlands conservation and wise use of their resources.
- 3)
>>> Weak enforcement of the law by government institutions and inadequate support and commitment from government and other stakeholders. (Eg. Lack of political will by government to deal directly with issues concerning encroachment especially in our urban wetlands)
- 4)
>>> Poor Ramsar site management staff strength
- 5)
>>> Land litigation and ownership issues and increased threat of urbanization

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

- 1)
>>> Conduct widespread restoration of wetland habitat especially mangrove areas
- 2)
>>> Conduct a comprehensive national wetlands inventory
- 3)
>>> Training and capacity building of wetland management staff and stakeholders in proper management of wetland resources
- 4)
>>> Continues improvement of Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) creation to enhance sensitization of the general public on wetlands and water resources conservation

5)

>>> Review and update of national wetlands policy and strategy and aligning goals with other MEA's to create synergies and improve coordination and cooperation of all wetland stakeholders including non-governmental agencies operating within wetlands in general in achieving global targets.

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

>>> Assistance in

1. Conducting a comprehensive national wetland inventory
2. Reviewing and updating Ghana's national wetland strategy and action plan and aligning targets to the upcoming 5th strategic plan and Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework.
3. Capacity building for wetland management personnel.

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)?

>>> Assistance in

1. Conducting a comprehensive national wetland inventory
2. Reviewing and updating Ghana's national wetland strategy and action plan and aligning targets to the upcoming 5th strategic plan and Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework.
3. Capacity building for wetland management personnel.

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.

>>> Two (2) out of six (6) of Ghana's Ramsar sites management are led by women, with more women being assigned roles in management of Ghana's wetlands to provide gender balance. Many wetland conservation and restoration projects, programmes and activities in Ghana involving wetland communities have also incorporated efforts around gender balance and participation with large numbers of women involved in wetland-related decisions.

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

>>> Education of more women and girls in water and wetland related programmes.

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

>>> National Gender Policy, 2015 and Affirmative Action Act, 2024

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).

>>> Management of Ramsar sites in Ghana are encouraged to organize routine educational visits to schools to educate young people on wetlands and their importance. They also encourage the creation of environmental clubs and organize programs which feature the presence of young people from these schools and clubs.

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 Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS), Centre for Biodiversity Conservation and Research (CBCR), Water Resources Commission (WRC), Managers of the various Ramsar Sites in the country.

Section 3 - all goals: Indicator questions and further implementation information

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.

Section 3 - Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15]

Target 1

Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14]

1.1 Have any actions been taken since COP14 to integrate wetland protection, wise use and restoration, or wetland benefits, into other national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.1}

Please select only one per square.

a) National policy or strategy for wetland management	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Poverty eradication strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
e) Integrated coastal zone management plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
f) National forest management plan/strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

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

Target 2

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

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

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

2.2 Additional Information

>>> No environmental flow assessments have been done in relation to impact mitigation on the ecological character of 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?

☒ C=Partially

2.3 Additional Information

>>> People and institutions give recognition to Ramsar sites and have reverence for rules on water pollution, abstraction etc.

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

>>> The Water Resources Commission of Ghana has provided some form of guidelines for water allocation and management taking into consideration ecological function of wetlands. These guidelines have been backed by law and been enforced for many years.

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

2.6 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.

>>> Private sector is encouraged to follow regulations as specified in Environmental laws and regulations by the Environmental Protection Agency .

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

Please select only one per square.

--	--

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

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}

☒ B=No

4.1 Additional information

>>> There is no comprehensive national inventory however there is available information on local/site specific information on various invasive alien species.

4.2 Has your country adopted any national policies, strategies, or guidelines on invasive species control and management that are relevant for wetlands? {4.2}

☒ C=En partie

4.2 Additional information

>>> The government has over the years, through programmes, policies and legislative instruments sought to protect the environment from IAS. There are many institutions that play different roles in the prevention of IAS. While the number of institutions and existing legislations seems adequate, the uncoordinated nature of the policies and law's creates conflicts and leaves gaps in the control of IAS.

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

☒ X=Unknown

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

☒ X=Unknown

Section 3 - Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 6, 11, 13, 14, 15]

Target 5

The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective planning and integrated management

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 3 and 5]

5.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? {5.1}

☒ A=Yes

5.1 Additional information

>>> The National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2007 - 2016, laid out modules for the designation of 5 additional wetlands after a national wetland inventory process. This action was unfortunately uncompleted. There are however plans to review and update Ghana's NWCSAP and hence reengage the designation of additional sites using the strategic framework under the Ramsar Convention.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 6

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 6

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

☒ X=Unknown

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 6

5.6 Additional information

>>> Cross sectoral site management committees (Site management committees) have not functioned for a very long time due to lack of dedicated resources to facilitate committee work and engagement. There has however been a lot of collaboration with represented institutions on the committees by Site managers as and when necessary.

5.7 Additional information

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

>>> Ghana is in the process of initiating a National Wetland Inventory process under an updated conservation strategy and action plan in the next few years. This national inventory will provide all the necessary information to provide "detailed" ECD's on all wetlands and provide information on changes or likely changes that may occur.,

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

>>> There is an informal mechanism in place where people living within and around the Ramsar site call by phone or visit Wildlife Division offices to report the occurrence of any negative human-induced activity. In some cases depending on the severity and nature of the activity, these community vigilantes move in to cause a citizen arrest and later report to the relevant authorities to take action. This is due to the appreciation of the importance of the wetland due to the effective CEPA programs conducted in the communities.

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

☒ B=No

7.2 Additional information

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

>>> No such reports have been made to the Ramsar Secretariat. There is however some reports of perceived likely change to the ecological character of some sites and the Ramsar AA needs to establish scientifically the validity of any such change for onward reporting to the secretariat.

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}

☒ D=Planned

8.1 Additional information

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

>>> There are various categories of data and wetland inventories cutting across various products, institutions, datasets and methods. These information sources include some Ramsar sites and other wetlands in general. There was a proposal for a consolidated and comprehensive wetland inventory for Ghana in the National Wetland Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2007-2016), however there was a challenge of funding for the initiative and the source document was unfortunately not well publicized among stakeholders. There is however a plan to review and update Ghana's NWCSAP and align its targets to the KMGBF and the upcoming 5th Ramsar Strategic plan to forge synergies in achieving this crucial goal among stakeholders for a well consolidated and comprehensive National Wetland Inventory.

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

☒ C1=Partially

8.2 Additional information

>>> Although not consolidated various data sources do well to update their information regularly.

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ X=Unknown

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?

>>> Depends on the data source and the managers of the data. Data on the various Ramsar site wetlands and a few other nationally important wetlands are publicly available on request from the Ramsar AA in partnership with the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research.

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

☒ X=Unknown

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

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

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

partial or not complete.

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

>>> Information provided is partial. This is with respect to only Ramsar sites whose wetland extent are properly confirmed.

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km ²)
A -- Permanent shallow marine waters	
B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds	
C -- Coral reefs	
D -- Rocky marine shores	
E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores	
F -- Estuarine waters	
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	
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)

>>> 2038.5179

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km²)

>>> 13.1

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

8.7 Additional Information

>>> There is a general sense of widespread wetland deterioration although that information has not yet been scientifically investigated.

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

last COP

Please select only one per square.

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

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

	Ye s
a) Access to data and data acquisition standards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Wetland delineation methods and approaches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Habitat classifications	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Standardization in data interpretation methods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Relevant skills	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
c) Data systems and management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Application of NWI information for decision making (climate, biodiversity and sectoral planning/reporting)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

>>> Yes, but old and needs to be revised. Although strategy and action plan are still very relevant today, it needs to be updated to take into consideration lessons learned and new challenges.

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 passing of the Wildlife Resource Management Act, 2024 (Act 1115) and submission of Ghana's National Biodiversity Targets aligned with the KM-GBF

9.3 Do your country's water governance and management systems recognize wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {9.3}

☒ A=Yes

9.3 Additional information

>>> The Water Resources Commission has set up basin boards to coordinate activities and initiate interventions for the ecological health of the major river basins in Ghana. The basins with established boards are; The White Volta, Densu, Tano, Pru, Ankobra and Black Volta.

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

>>> The various basin boards under the Water Resources Commission have core mandates which include; awareness creation, education, training and consultations to influence understanding and change of attitudes that degrade wetlands in the basin system.

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

☒ C=Partially

9.5 Additional information

>>> Wetlands in Ghana are recognized as playing an important role in Climate change mitigation and adaptation. Policies on Climate change incorporates the role and importance of wetlands in mitigation and adaptation.

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

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ A=Yes

9.8 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) valuation of ecosystem services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Planned <input 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}

☒ C=Partially

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

☒ D=Planned

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

>>> Indigenous and local communities are part of local site management committees and are involved as relevant stakeholders in the management of various Ramsar sites. Representatives from the National House of Chiefs (local traditional authorities) are also a member of the National Wetlands Committee.

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

>>> Traditional management practices and incorporation of local cultural values are highly prioritized in wetland co-management practices.

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

>>> A practical example of a successful project involving indigenous people especially women is the co-management approach of the resource users in the densu delta Ramsar site.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[GH2014_ACT139_MOFAD_FC_FIN508.pdf](#)

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.

>>> Indigenous and local communities are part of local site management committees and are involved as relevant stakeholders in the management of various Ramsar sites. Representatives from the National House of Chiefs (local traditional authorities) are also a member of the National Wetlands Committee. Traditional management practices and incorporation of local cultural values are highly prioritized in wetland co-management practices. The Wetlands Management Regulations L.I 1659 is laced with various traditional management practices including closed seasons and open seasons and the use of traditional communication locally referred to as the “gong-gong”

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

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

>>> Baseline assessments were done of all the Ramsar sites in Ghana as at the time of designation

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

☒ A=Yes

11.2 Additional information

>>> A few projects including the Women Shellfishers and Food security project at Densu Delta Ramsar Site and the Sustainable Wetland and Flood Management for Improving Food Security and Ecosystem Resilience in West Africa” (GDZHIAO) project under the GMES & Africa Program is being implemented in 3 sites ; Keta Lagoon Complex, Sakumo and Owabi Ramsar Sites.

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

Description: Women Shellfishers and Food Security Project

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

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ C=Partially

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?

☒ C=Partially

12.1 Additional Information

>>> The National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and Action Plan details out the restoration of 4 yet to be selected wetland sites for restoration. A lot of habitat improvement and restoration activities are already ongoing in other wetland sites, particularly Ramsar Sites.

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

☒ B=No

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			
Inland			
Human-made			

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

☒ B=No

Target 13

Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10 and 14]

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

Please select only one per square.

a) Energy	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Mining	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
d) Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
e) Urban development	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
f) Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
g) Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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

13.2 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact wetlands? {13.1}

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ A=Yes

13.3 Additional information

>>> The Environmental Assessment Regulations, LI 1652, was promulgated in 1999 to give comprehensive legal cover to the Ghana Environmental Impact Assessment procedures. These Regulations require that all developmental activities likely to impact adversely on the environment must be subject to Environmental Assessment.

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

[Environmental Assessment Regulations 1999, LI 1652](#)

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 16

Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 21].

16.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {16.1}

Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below

Please select only one per square.

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

16.1 Additional information

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

>>> CEPA is a major module under the NWCSAP for Ghana with an action plan and an indicative budget. Site managers of various Ramsar Sites also plan and execute CEPA activities according to their Site management plans.

16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) that focus on wetlands have been established? {16.2}

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ G=More than #

>>> 2

b) at other wetlands

☒ X=Unknown

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

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

☒ A=Yes

16.4 Additional information

>>> A cross sectoral National Wetlands Committee is in place but weak in operation.

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

☒ A=Yes

16.5 Additional information

>>> National Biodiversity Committee, National Climate Change Committee etc.

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

Please select only one per square.

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

16.7 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

16.8 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

16.9 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

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

[Ghana's Ramsar Sites](#)

Target 17

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

18.2 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

18.3 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 checked="" 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.

>>> IUCN

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ A=Yes

18.7 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {18.8}

☒ A=Yes

18.7 Additional information

If "yes", please list which regional networks or initiatives

>>> The AEWA convention and the annual African Waterbird Census organized by Wetlands International.

Target 19

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20]

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ C=Partially

19.3 Additional information

>>> Topics and course material on wetlands are taught extensively in the tertiary level with relevant programmes.

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ G=More than #

>>> 5

b) at other wetlands

☒ X=Unknown

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

☒ D=Planned

