



RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

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

Section 1: Institutional Information

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

Name of Contracting Party

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

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

>>> Hungary

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

TMF 427 2024 Ramsar Authority letter HU.pdf

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

>>> Deputy State Secretariat for Nature Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

>>> Mr. Bertalan Balczó

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Email

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Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title

>>> Mr. András Schmidt

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>>> +36-30-6788764

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>>> andras.schmidt@am.gov.hu

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

Name and title

>>> Dr. Szilvia Gőri

Name of organisation

>>> Hortobágy National Park Directorate

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>>> 4024, Debrecen, Sumen u. 2., Hungary

Telephone

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Email

>>> gori@hnp.hu

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

Name and title

>>> There is no designated government CEPA NFP now.

Name of organisation

>>> There is no designated government CEPA NFP now.

Mailing address

>>> There is no designated government CEPA NFP now.

Telephone

>>> There is no designated government CEPA NFP now.

Email

>>> There is no designated government CEPA NFP now.

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

Name and title

>>> Mr. László Musicz

Name of organisation

>>> Által-ér Szövetség

Mailing address

>>> 2890, Tata Erzsébet királyné tér 13. Hungary

Telephone

>>> +36-30-2470613

Email

>>> fabalis@gmail.com

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

Name and title

>>> There is no designated NFP for Youth.

Name of organization

>>> There is no designated NFP for Youth.

Mailing address

>>> There is no designated NFP for Youth.

Phone

>>> There is no designated NFP for Youth.

Email

>>> There is no designated NFP for Youth.

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)
>>> Wetland restoration projects
- 2)
>>> Outreach to society through the organisation of World Wetland Days
- 3)
>>> Operations by Accredited Wetland City of Tata, e.g. banning the use of fireworks in the city to reduce disturbance of geese, and organisation of the annual Wild Goose Festival
- 4)
>>> Finalisation of Natura 2000 site-specific conservation objectives, including objectives for wetlands and their species on each Natura 2000 site
- 5)
>>> LIFE project launched for the restoration and management of wetlands in the world's first pentagonal biosphere reserve, the transboundary Mura-Drava-Danube BR

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

- 1)
>>> Combating climate change, especially increasingly arid conditions and increasingly more extreme rainfall patterns.
- 2)
>>> Tackling degradation of wetland habitats, due to IAS and land use change, including land abandonment.
- 3)
>>> Communication with stakeholders in other sectors, such as with landowners, farmers etc. on wetland management for nature conservation and on restrictions on land use.
- 4)
>>> Saving great lakes from encroaching tourism infrastructure.
- 5)
>>> Expanding the network of protected areas.

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

- 1)
>>> Continuation of wetland restoration projects, especially in areas most impacted by climate change and the sinking of the watertable.
- 2)
>>> Organisation of the global meeting of Accredited Wetland Cities in 2025.
- 3)
>>> Continuation of the fight against the most harmful IAS.
- 4)
>>> Removal of perverse subsidies that incentivise farmers to plough regularly inundated patches of arable land.
- 5)
>>> Retaining waters rather than draining them.

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

>>> No recommendation.

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)?

>>> No recommendation.

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.

>>> Men and women participate equally in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research in Hungary.

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

>>> No change seems necessary concerning wetland-related issues. Hungary generally ranks low in distribution of power according to gender, but this is not specific to wetland issues.

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

>>> No such lesson can be drawn, men and women are treated basically equally in Hungary, including in wetland-related issues. The Constitution of Hungary guarantees fundamental rights to all citizens without discrimination based on any characteristics and explicitly recognises the equal rights of women and men.

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

>>> No such strategy is known to the author of this report.

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).

>>> Participants of university student competitions working on wetland-related issues receive special recognition by the National Ramsar Committee. State nature conservation runs a training course programme known as "Egret Warden" programme, to train young students to work with rangers and thus learn about practical nature conservation. It is planned that a national youth focal point for Ramsar will be selected from the most successful participants of the "Egret Warden" programme.

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

>>> Hungarian Ramsar Committee

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
e) Integrated coastal zone management plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
f) National forest management plan/strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
l) National policies on infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
m) National policies on industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
n) National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3}	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
o) National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
p) National policies on wastewater management and water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
q) National policies, strategies or plans on sanitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
r) National policies, strategies or plans on food security	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

1.1 Additional information

>>> The National Sustainable Development Framework Strategy 2012-2024 was approved in 2013 and it contains two chapters relevant for wetlands (Chapter 9.3.2. on water quality, and Chapter 9.3.5. on wetlands). The National Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 was approved in August 2023, and it has incorporated wetland

issues.

- The third river basin management plan for Hungary was endorsed by the government in 2022. This plan includes the water management policy for Hungary's wetlands.
- The National Forest Strategy 2016-2030 was endorsed in 2016.
- The strategic environmental assessment directive of the Parliament and the Council of the European Union (2001/42/EC) is implemented by Government Decree 2/2005 (I.12.)
- The National CAP Strategy was approved in 2023 and contains important references to the protection of water resources
- The National Energy Strategy 2030 was approved in 2012
- The National Tourism Development Strategy 2030 was approved in 2017
- The National Development and Territorial Development Concept was approved in 2013 and incorporates wetland protection (urban development and infrastructure)
- The National Industry Development Strategy (Irianyi Plan) was approved in 2016, but does not refer to wetland issues
- The Multiannual National Strategy Plan on Aquaculture of Hungary was approved in 2015 and covers relevant wetland issues
- The 5th National Environmental Programme is being drafted

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}

☒ C=Partially

2.1 Additional Information

>>> Not the guidelines themselves, but similar guidance is used in procedures under EU legislation, for example in appropriate assessments in Natura 2000 sites.

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

>>> Such assessments are carried out by the environmental authorities as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

See also an attached study on this topic.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Velencei-to.pdf](#) - rticle Integration of a Shallow Soda Lake into the Groundwater Flow System by Using Hydraulic Evaluation and Environmental Tracers

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

☒ A=Yes

2.3 Additional Information

>>> The management of Ramsar Sites aims to improve the sustainable use of water, in particular by water retention measures (wetland restoration measures).

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}

☒ C=Partially

2.4 Additional Information

>>> Not the guidelines themselves, but similar guidance is used in procedures under EU legislation, for example in appropriate assessments in Natura 2000 sites.

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

☒ A=Yes

2.5 Additional Information

>>> Wetland restoration projects by national park directorates and water management directorates. See 12.3.

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.

>>> Agri-environmental payments encourage the wise use of grasslands, including wet meadows. Payments also

exist to help extensive fish farming in harmony with environmental goals.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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

3.2 Additional information

>>> In some Ramsar sites, such as the Upper Kiskunság alkaline plains, the private manager/farmer carries out exemplary management in the spirit of wise use. Otherwise, environmental subsidy systems can be mentioned for wise use and management of wetlands as explained in 3.1. and 3.3.

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

☒ A=Yes

3.3 Additional information

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

>>> EU grants are available to fish farmers for biodiversity conservation measures in extensively managed fish farms. In the Natura 2000 programme (Hungary's Ramsar sites are almost fully within the Natura 2000 network), farmers get regular payments for their grasslands from 2008 onwards. This entails restrictions, for example, farmers may not drain their fields from spring floods.

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.

>>> So far, the EU Common Agricultural Policy financed agricultural activities in all farmland including in regularly flooded areas which should not have been farmed (ploughed). Under the new CAP (2021-2027) farmers get payment for these areas even if they do not cultivate them.

Target 4

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6]

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

☒ C=Partially

4.1 Additional information

>>> The list of invasive species of Union (EU) concern is available and has legal basis, and a comprehensive national inventory for all IAS is being prepared.

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

☒ A=Yes

4.2 Additional information

>>> In 2020, Hungary produced the IAS Action Plan for IAS of Union concern, and submitted it to the European Commission. This covers a number of wetland inhabiting IAS.

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

☒ E=# species

>>> 1

4.3 Additional Information

>>> Egyptian Goose has so far been successfully kept under control.

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

>>> After several 'designation waves' (the last ones in 2006 and 2008, with only one site added in the 2009-2011 triennium), the designation of further sites is no longer considered a high priority task in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Hungary. Further designations may take place, but are not planned in such number that a strategy or priorities should be identified (over 2.6 % of the country's territory is already designated to the list of Ramsar sites).

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 29

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 29

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 are covered with Natura 2000 sites, and each Natura 2000 site already has a management plan.

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

>>> 1

5.6 Additional information

>>> Lakes by Tata: Since 1994, the municipality of Tata has been a founding and managing member of the river basin-wide Által-ér Alliance, and since 2013 of the Gerecse Nature Park. These are the most important regional platforms for horizontal stakeholder consultation (bringing together 19 and 29 municipalities respectively). Tata's local nature protection bylaw of 2012 ensures the operation of the municipal Green Round Table, which brings together NGOs that have been working in the city for many years, to discuss the most important issues affecting wetlands and natural values once a year or more frequently if needed. Every month since 2022, the Municipal Council has reviewed the current situation and status of karst resources in the town.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 29

5.7 Additional information

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

>>> All Ramsar sites in Hungary (29) overlap with Natura 2000 sites. The Standard Data Form of Natura 2000 sites is a standardised ecological description for each site.

5.8 Resolution VI.13 urges Parties to give priority to providing the Secretariat with maps and completed Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) for all Sites designated for the Ramsar List, and to revise this data at least every six years. If your country has not updated its RIS as required, describe the challenges in updating RIS, particularly descriptions of ecological character.

>>> The RIS updates could not be prioritised in the past 6 years due to capacity problems both at the national park directorates responsible for individual Ramsar sites, and at the ministerial level.

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

>>> The national park directorates are responsible for the conservation management of all Ramsar sites in

Hungary. They regularly survey the sites and monitor certain features, and are obliged to report to the Ministry of Agriculture any negative change in their condition.

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

>>> All known negative changes that may have a long-term or permanent effect on the ecological character of the sites have been reported: the sites affected are Upper Tisza Ramsar Site, Bodrogzug Ramsar Site and Rétszilás Fishponds Ramsar Site.

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?

>>> The National Wetland Inventory database was established in 2004. The process of data collection stalled in 2005, but database compilation under the Water Framework Directive has partly replaced it. The Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services project in Hungary carried out mapping of all kinds of ecosystems in Hungary (compiling existing databases), including wetlands. The mapping has been finalised and the results are publicly available (see link).

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

[National Ecosystem Services Mapping and Evaluation](#) - National ecosystem mapping, EOv and ETRS1989 LAEA projection, GeoTIFF raster format, 20x20 metre pixel size

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

☒ B=No

8.2 Additional information

>>> No National Wetland Inventory exists other than the recently finalised National Ecosystem Map.

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ C=Not updated

8.3 Additional information

>>> No National Wetland Inventory exists other than the recently finalised National Ecosystem Map. There is no regular scheme yet for its update.

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?

>>> See public link to the National Ecosystem Map above (but it is not exactly the same as a National Wetland Inventory).

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

>>> No National Wetland Inventory exists, but the data and information in the National Ecosystem Map (see above) are maintained by the Ministry of Agriculture.

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

>>> 5993

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km ²)
A -- Permanent shallow marine waters	0
B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds	0
C -- Coral reefs	0
D -- Rocky marine shores	0
E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores	0
F -- Estuarine waters	0
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	0
Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs	0
H -- Intertidal marshes	0
I -- Intertidal forested wetlands	0
J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons	0
K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons	0
Zk(a) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	0

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km²)

>>> 0

8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km ²)
L -- Permanent inland deltas	
M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls	
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks	
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes	
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	
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils	
U -- Non-forested peatlands	
Va -- Alpine wetlands	
Vt -- Tundra wetlands	
W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands	
Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	
Xp -- Forested peatlands	
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.	
Zg -- Geothermal wetlands	
Zk(b) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

>>> 5993

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

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

8.8 Additional Information

>>> No information is available on change in extent of wetlands. The National Ecosystem Mapping has allowed to calculate a total for Hungary's wetlands (5993 sq km). However, categorisation differs from that under 8.6 and is presented here:

Area (sq km) Habitat type

318,2748 Softwood gallery woodland

138,3548 Hardwood gallery woodland

446,5620 Alder woodland

2 287,5804 Emergent vegetation in marshes and bogs

1 194,3004 Grasslands under temporary influence of water, bog meadows and wet meadows

77,6532 Bog woods and swamps

1 075,3740 Standing water bodies

455,0428 Flowing water bodies

5 993,1424 Total extent

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

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

	Yes
--	-----

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

8.10 Additional Information

>>> The Ministry of Agriculture is about to launch a new project to establish a central database for biotic data in nature conservation - this will serve wetland conservation, too.

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

>>> The 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, containing relevant provisions on wetland conservation, was endorsed by the Government in 2023. The Water Framework Directive can be considered as the wetland policy of the European Union. The 3rd river basin management plan for Hungary was endorsed in 2022. Therefore, this plan includes the management policy for Hungary's wetlands. The Water Framework Directive has been incorporated into Hungary's legislation by three government decrees: 219/2004 on the protection of groundwaters, 220/2004 on the protection of surface water quality and 221/2004 on the rules of river basin management.

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

>>> REGULATION (EU) 2024/1991 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869 provides for the restoration of natural habitats and native species protected by the EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive.

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

>>> In the frame of the national river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive.

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

>>> In the frame of the national river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive.

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

☒ A=Yes

9.5 Additional information

>>> REGULATION (EU) 2024/1991 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869 provides for the restoration of natural habitats and native species protected by the EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive, and places special emphasis on adaptation to climate change.

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

☒ A=Yes

9.6 Additional Information

>>> Regulation (EU) 2018/841 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF Regulation) as amended by Regulation (EU) 2023/839 (LULUCF Regulation). The EU's LULUCF policy framework builds on IPCC guidance, TACCC principles and existing accounting rules, updating and improving them for the period from 2021 to 2030. The policy framework, from 2026, applies net reported emissions and removals, contributing to the aim of enhancing the EU's net land sinks in the long-term.

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

☒ A=Yes

9.7 Additional information

>>> The National CAP Strategic Plan of Hungary continues to employ agri-environmental measures from the previous CAP period also in 2021-2027 period. Schemes include reed management; management of natural wetland habitats, marshes, bogs and sedges; establishment and management of wetland habitats) with the aim of serving environmental and nature conservation purposes in wetland habitats with high biodiversity by creating and maintaining favourable living conditions for endangered animal species connected to wetlands. The MAHOP EU-funded scheme supports sustainably managed fish farming.

9.8 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on: {9.7}

Please select only one per square.

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

9.8 Additional information

>>> The Agrárközgazdasági Intézet (Institute for Agricultural Economics) carried out a research project titled "Study of the environmental effects of water use for irrigation, elaboration of an evaluation methodology and its analysis in sample sites". The study is not available on the internet.

For ecosystem services, see also under 11.1.

A project was launched in 2017 under the Environmental and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme, which contained a subproject for Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services in Hungary. The project was concluded in 2022. The evaluation has been finalised and the results are available (see link).

The General Directorate of Water Management developed a guideline for intermittent rivers and lakes. The guideline targets to describe the empirical intermittent character of surface waters and also its relation to human uses. Chapters are dedicated to water quality and best practices are described for the management of used or polluted water discharges of intermittent rivers and lakes. Based guideline's empirical intermittent and water management categories a map was produced for the country showing the intermittent character of the river water bodies (see link).

The Institute of Geography and Earth Science of Eötvös Loránd University and the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences have investigated the impact of extreme drought in the summer of 2022 on the Great Hungarian Plain. The studies focused on several environmental conditions of the region, including the

effect of river control or intensive agricultural cultivation on water-retention capacity of the landscape. See links to two publications:

Timár, G., Jakab, G., & Székely, B. (2024) and

Kutnyánszky, V., & Szilvácsku, Z. M. (2023).

<https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/13/2/146>: A Step from Vulnerability to Resilience: Restoring the Landscape Water-Storage Capacity of the Great Hungarian Plain—An Assessment and a Proposal

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

[A Step from Vulnerability to Resilience: Restoring the Landscape Water-Storage Capacity of the Great Hungarian Plain—An Assessment and a Proposal](#)

[Relationship Between Landscape Management, Land Use and Ecological Network in Nagykörű](#). - Kutnyánszky, V., & Szilvácsku, Z. M. (2023). Relationship Between Landscape Management, Land Use and Ecological Network in Nagykörű. Journal of Environmental Geography, 16(1-4), 107-118.

[A Step from Vulnerability to Resilience: Restoring the Landscape Water-Storage Capacity of the Great Hungarian Plain—An Assessment and a Proposal](#) - Timár, G., Jakab, G., & Székely, B. (2024). A Step from Vulnerability to Resilience: Restoring the Landscape Water-Storage Capacity of the Great Hungarian Plain—An Assessment and a Proposal. Land, 13(2), 146.

[Running project: Effect of climate change-related drought on structuring aquatic macroinvertebrate communities](#) M. Ganszky, B. Kisgyörgy, T. László: [A framework for estimating the economic benefits of ecosystem services](#) - A framework for estimating the economic benefits of ecosystem services

[Gábor Ungvári: The role and potential of flood risk management in shaping land use](#) - Flood-peak polders of the Tisza River from the perspective of integrated planning challenges.

[B. Lakatos, G. Ungvári: Concept of ecosystem services in water management](#) - Concept of ecosystem services in water management

[Guideline for intermittent rivers and lakes](#) - The guideline targets to describe the empirical intermittent character of surface waters and also its relation to human uses.

[Guideline for intermittent rivers and lakes](#) - The guideline targets to describe the empirical intermittent character of surface waters and also its relation to human uses.

[National Ecosystem Services Mapping and Evaluation](#) - National evaluation of ecosystem services

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

☒ A=Yes

9.9 Additional information

>>> The best example is the city of Tata, which is a Wetland City accredited by the Ramsar Convention. But there are other wisely used urban and periurban wetlands, see for example the website of Mórahalom municipality on Nagyszéksői Buffalo Reserve.

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

[Nagyszéksői Buffalo Reserve](#) - This periurban marshland is wisely used for grazing buffaloes and at the same time it is a bird paradise.

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

☒ A=Yes

9.10 Additional information

>>> All bogs/mires, springs, saline lakes and karstic sinkholes have been protected since the Act on Natura Conservation entered into force in 1997. The inventories for these wetlands have also been elaborated.

Target 10

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

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

☒ C1= Partially

10.1 Additional Information

>>> The option "Yes" should have been selected, but it is not possible (an error in the format). All stakeholders, including local communities are involved, for example, in the planning of river basin management plans under the EU Water Framework Directive. The Által-ér Association, an association of local governments along the Által-ér stream is represented in the National Ramsar Committee. Local traditional knowledge is applied where known and relevant (e.g. traditional uses of reed).

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

☒ A=Yes

10.2 Additional Information

>>> Traditional knowledge of site management as well as cultural values connected to wetlands are taken into consideration in Ramsar site management.

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

>>> LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS project: "Integrated application of innovative water management methods at river basin by coordination of local governments"

The overarching goal of the LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS project – building on the experience and results of the LIFE-MICACC project, which ended in November 2021 – is to improve climate adaptation and coordination capacity of local municipalities, and supporting the drawing down of financial resources and the efficient use of EU funding for related topics. It will be achieved by mitigating the negative water-balance situation through the demonstration of integrated ecosystem-based water management solutions applied at the catchment level. An additional goal of the project is to encourage the dissemination of several domestic and foreign, local and water catchment level Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRMs) good practice by sharing the results, in the coordination of local municipalities.

Although the project does not affect a Ramsar site, the creation of wetlands and the involvement of local communities are important aspects during the LIFE Logos 4 Waters project.

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

<https://vizmegtartomegoldasok.bm.hu/en>

<https://lifelogos4waters.bm.hu/en/home/>

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.

>>> EU Water Framework Directive

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

☒ A=Yes

10.5 Additional information

>>> LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS project

<https://lifelogos4waters.bm.hu/en/home/>

Knowledge on traditional pig grazing in forests and marshes:

"PIGS IN THE FOREST AND MARSH - Traditional ecological knowledge of svinjars"

The publication of the book was supported by various projects. The project MEC_K 141196 was funded by the Ministry of Culture and Innovation with support from the National Research Development and Innovation Fund, under the Mecenatúra grant scheme (MEC_K_21, Hungary). The background research was supported by the project NKFIH K 119478 (Effects of extensive grazing on vegetation in non-conventional pasture-lands), financed by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office, Hungary, and by the project MTA Lendület_2020-56 (Locality captured in the net of globalism...), financed by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Shepherd Museum in the Hortobágy National Park. A video on the traditional knowledge of shepherds.

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

[Video on the traditional knowledge of shepherds.](#)

[Shepherd Museum in the Hortobágy NP](#) - Interactive exhibition with photos and films

[LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS project](#)

[PIGS IN THE FOREST AND MARSH](#) - Traditional ecological knowledge of svinjars

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

>>> A part of the Upper Kiskunság Alkaline Lakes Ramsar Site, Böddi-szék, was examined in this respect, see attached citation.

[Mapping Freshwater Aquaculture’s Diverse Ecosystem Services with Participatory Techniques: A Case Study from White Lake, Hungary](#)

Regional and national ecosystem services assessments in Hungary (the last three references), not focusing specifically on Ramsar sites.

In the ongoing project ‘National Laboratory for Water Science and Water Security’ (RRF-2.3.1-21-2022-00008) the sub-project 1.L is developing an assessment system for status assessment and ecosystem services of rivers and floodplains. The pilot area of the project is the river Hernád.

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

[Developing an integrated land use planning system on reclaimed wetlands of the Hungarian Plain using economic valuation of ecosystem services](#)

[Finding the Green Grass in the Haystack? Integrated National Assessment of Ecosystem Services and Condition in Hungary, in Support of Conservation and Planning](#) - The assessment of ecosystems on large scales in Hungary took place between 2016 and 2022. Twelve ecosystem services (ES) were mapped and assessed along with several ecosystem condition (EC) indicators. Their integrated spatial analysis aimed to identify patterns of ES multifunctionality, reveal relationships between EC and ES and delineate ES bundles.

[National Ecosystem Services Assessment in Hungary: Framework, Process and Conceptual Questions](#) - The Hungarian assessment of ecosystem services was structured along the ES cascade with each level described by a set of indicators. The selected and quantified indicators for 12 ES are presented.

[Supposed Effects of Wetland Restoration on Hydrological Conditions and the Provisioning Ecosystem Services—A Model-Based Case Study at a Hungarian Lowland Catchment](#) - A hydrological analysis in a 243 km² flood-protected catchment in the Great Hungarian Plain, mapping the potential hydrological effects of water-retention scenarios on groundwater levels

[Mapping Freshwater Aquaculture’s Diverse Ecosystem Services with Participatory Techniques: A Case Study from White Lake, Hungary](#) - Analysis of the ecosystem services of a fishpond system within a Ramsar site

[Changes in the ecological status of the Böddi-szék soda pan in a decade](#) - Changes in the ecological character of an alkaline lake within a Ramsar site

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

>>> Wetland restoration and management projects by national park directorates usually include grazing by traditional livestock, such as grey cattle or water buffalo. Thus, they contribute to food production and also provide jobs.

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

☒ A=Yes

11.3 Additional Information

>>> Wetland restoration and management projects by national park directorates contribute, for example, to recreational opportunities.

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

>>> The socio-economic values of wetlands are taken into consideration in planning for nationally protected areas (a number of Hungary's Ramsar sites overlap with nationally protected areas).

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

☒ A=Yes

11.5 Additional information

>>> The cultural values of wetlands are taken into consideration in planning for nationally protected areas (a number of Hungary's Ramsar sites overlap with nationally protected areas).

Target 12

Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.

[Reference Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 2, 8 and 11]

12.1 Have national wetland restoration targets been established?

☒ D=Planned

12.1 Additional Information

>>> REGULATION (EU) 2024/1991 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869 provides for the restoration of natural habitats, including wetlands protected by the EU Habitats Directive. Under the Regulation, Member States have to prepare a national nature restoration plan by 2026.

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

☒ A=Yes

12.2 Additional information

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

>>> The priority sites have been identified by national park directorates during the planning of their EU-funded projects. REGULATION (EU) 2024/1991 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869 provides for the restoration of natural habitats, including wetlands protected by the EU Habitats Directive. Under the Regulation, Member States have to prepare a national nature restoration plan by 2026, which will include prioritisation.

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

☒ A=Yes

12.3 Additional information

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

>>> No specific statistics exist for the period since COP14, but wetland restoration projects are implemented continuously by the national park directorates. In the EU budgetary periods since 2004 to 2020, a total of 320 thousand hectares were targeted by projects that included predominantly (but not exclusively) wetlands restoration activities. In the EU budgetary period 2021-2027, the area targeted by projects that include predominantly (but not exclusively) wetlands restoration activities is 140 thousand hectares.

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

☒ A=Yes

12.4 Additional Information

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

>>> REGULATION (EU) 2024/1991 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869 provides for the restoration of natural habitats, including peatlands. Article 11 paragraph 4 makes special provisions for peatlands.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

13.1 Additional Information

>>> SEA and EIA obligation under EU legislation, as well as necessity to carry out an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive in Natura 2000 sites. Fisheries if distinguished from aquaculture may refer to marine fisheries only, while Hungary has no sea.

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

>>> Yes, the strategic environmental assessment directive of the Parliament and the Council of the European Union (2001/42/EC) is implemented by Government Decree 2/2005 (I.12.).

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 EIA Directive of the EU applies in Hungary and has been transposed into national legislation by Government Decree 314/2005 (XII.25.). Projects that may have an impact on Natura 2000 sites (the Natura

2000 network covers 21% of Hungary, 71.5% of all wetland territory in Hungary and among them practically all the important wetlands) also require an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive (in cases when EIA is not required), transposed into Hungarian legislation by Government Decree 275/2004 (X.6.). If a project requires an assessment both under the EIA and the Habitats/Bird Directives, there shall be a coordinated and/or joint procedure, unless such procedure is not relevant for the project in question. If a project is subject to an assessment both under the EIA and other EU environmental legislation, e.g. WFD, SEA Directive, Seveso Directive, project promoters have the discretion to apply such a streamlining.

Section 3 - Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

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

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17]

Target 15

Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.

15.1 Has your country been part of the development and implementation of a Ramsar Regional Initiative?? {15.1}

☒ A=Yes

15.1 Additional information

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

>>> Carpathian Wetland Initiative; Danube WILDisland Ramsar Regional Initiative

15.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {15.2}

☒ B=No

Target 16

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 21].

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

16.1 Additional information

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

>>> The National CEPA Action Plan was developed and published in 2002: Bóhm, A. & Szabó M. (2002):

Országos stratégia a a vizes élőhelyek védelmének kommunikációjáért. In: Vizes élőhelyek: a természeti és a társadalmi

környezet kapcsolata. (National strategy for the communication of wetland conservation, In: Wetlands: the interrelation of the natural and the social environment. In Hungarian, 17 pages.).

The national river basin management plan also has a chapter on public participation. The national park directorates have identified their CEPA priorities and plans in their six-year development programmes (subnational level). The Ramsar Accredited Wetland City of Tata has a CEPA plan. The good use of CEPA at Tata is illustrated by the fact that a restriction of fireworks use at New Year's Eve was introduced in 2019, which was well received by the local population (even though fireworks are otherwise popular, but local people understood that it was a disturbance to the Ramsar site and its wildfowl).

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

>>> 17

b) at other wetlands

☒ E=# centres

>>> 6

16.2 Additional information

>>> Hortobágy, Aggtelek (Baradla), Aggtelek (Vörös-tó), Jósvalfő, Ócsa, Sarród (Kócsagvár), Sarród (Lászlómajor), Fertőújlak, Kapuvár (Öntésmajor), Keszthely, Tihany, Muraszemenye, Barcs-Drávaszentes, Szentborbás, Szaporca, Szatymaz, Szarvas, Biharugra, Tiszaalpár, Bátorliget, Fehérgyarmat, Kölked, Kardoskút (Pusztaközponti Múzeum)

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

>>> The elaboration of the national river basin management plan was built on a broad public participation procedure.

Stakeholders are consulted on Natura 2000 management plans, which also cover Ramsar sites. Local stakeholders are also involved in the management of Ramsar sites, for example in the environmental permitting procedures environmental NGOs are involved on request. Ramsar site designations can be made via a ministerial decree, with stakeholder involvement.

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

☒ A=Yes

16.4 Additional information

>>> The National Ramsar Committee is an advisory body of the Ministry, and is involved in all kinds of Ramsar related issues: designation, management, CEPA, species action plans, WWD etc. The Committee consists of representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Interior (the water sector), from national park directorates, scientists, NGOs, the hunting sector and a farmer who manages a Ramsar site. There are two meetings each year.

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

>>> The National Ramsar Committee is an advisory body of the Ministry, and is involved in all kinds of Ramsar related issues: designation, management, CEPA, species action plans, WWD etc. The Committee consists of representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Interior (the water sector), from national park directorates, scientists, NGOs, the hunting sector and a farmer who manages a Ramsar site. There are two

meetings each year.

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

>>> Management is discussed with site managers by the national park directorates. Implementation guidelines are shared by MEA focal points within the Ministry of Agriculture as they work in close collaboration. New legislation undergoes an interministerial consultation procedure before passed.

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

>>> WWD is celebrated each year throughout the country by national park directorates. The Ministry of Agriculture organised national celebrations each year in the triennium. The Ramsar Wetland City of Tata also organises WWD events.

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

>>> See 16.7.

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

>>> For example, the website of the Ministry of Agriculture on the Ramsar Convention.

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

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands website by the Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary - A brief overview of the convention and its implementation in Hungary

Target 17

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

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

☒ B=No

17.2 [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}

☒ X=Unknown

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

17.4 Additional information

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

>>> 1000 euro voluntary contribution was provided to the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative each year.

Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels

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

☒ B=No

18.2 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}

☒ B=No

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

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

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

☒ A=Yes

18.4 Additional information

>>> Twinning arrangements are in place on the Austrian and Hungarian side of Lake Fertő/Lake Neusiedl (involving the national park administrations), the Hungarian and Slovak side of the Baradla - Domica cave system (involving the national park administrations) and along the Upper Tisza/Tisa river (involving researchers), between Kopacki Rit Nature Park in Croatia and the Béda-Karapancsa Ramsar site of the Duna-Dráva National Park in Hungary, the conservation managers of the Biharugra Fishponds in Hungary and the Cséffai Fishponds in Romania.

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

☒ A=Yes

18.5 Additional information

>>> Border-region water management committees have been set up with all neighbouring countries and they identified all transboundary wetland systems. Hungary has presently four transboundary Ramsar sites (Upper Tisza, Aggtelek and river Ipoly), along the Hungarian/Slovak boundary (the Upper Tisza site extends along the Ukrainian and Romanian borderline, too) and Lake Fertő-Hanság/Neusiedlersee/Waasen on the Austrian-Hungarian border region.

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

☒ A=Yes

18.6 Additional information

>>> Agreements on the regulation of water management issues in the border area have been in operation with all neighbouring countries for decades.

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

>>> Hungary is a contracting party of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and is part of the following agreements/MoUs that deal (at least partly) with wetland-dependent species: EUROBATS, AEWA, Aquatic Warbler MoU, Slender-billed Curlew MoU, Birds of Prey MoU.

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}

☒ A=Yes

19.3 Additional information

>>> The University of Debrecen runs a Hidrobiolgy MSc degree course. wetland conservation and wise-use issues also appear in the Biology MSc degree course (classes Hidrobiolgy, Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation). Moreover, in the entire Sciences and Technology Faculty, i.e. students majoring in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, biological engineering, electric engineering, georapy and chemical engineering, this topic is covered within the class Environmental Studies.

In the Forest Engineer Faculty of the University of West Hungary, wetland conservation and wise use appears in the curriculae of the following courses: forest engineer MSc, nature conservation engineer BSc, MSc, game management engineer BSc, MSc, environmental engineer BSc, MSc, game management engineer and nature conservation engineer postgraduate courses, PhD programmes (nature conservation, game management).

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ E=# opportunities

>>> 0

b) at other wetlands

☒ E=# Opportunities

>>> 0

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

{19.4}

☒ B=No

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

Goal 3

Target 8: National wetland inventories

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]

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Resourcing

☒ A=Good

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2024 and how they contribute to achievement of the Global Biodiversity Framework Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in October 2024

>>> The General Directorate of Water Management maintains the national river and lake inventory. The inventories contain all Hungarian river and lake types apart from whether it is permanent / intermittent or natural / artificial.

