



RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

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Section 1: Institutional Information

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

Name of Contracting Party

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

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>>> INDIA

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

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Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

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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)

>>> Revised National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Resources (NPCA) guidelines - To expedite the process of integrated management planning of the Indian wetlands, the MoEFCC revised the NPCA guidelines. The revised guidelines introduced a graded two-stage approach for integrated management plan preparation with the introduction of a Framework Management Plan (FMP). This enables acting on the available information and, at the same time, builds an evidence base through assessments and stakeholder consultations for developing a comprehensive Integrated Management Plan for the site. The MoEFCC is actively fostering partnerships with the private sector for wetlands conservation. A Memorandum of Cooperation has been signed between the Indian Business and Biodiversity Initiative (established by the MoEFCC and the Confederation of Indian Industries to enable Indian Businesses to make commitments for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use) and the MoEFCC to foster the participation of the private sector in wetlands management and conservation efforts. The India Wetland Coalition (IWC) was launched to enable business partnerships for Wetlands Conservation, addressing the risk of nature loss and building resilience to climate change.

2)

>>> National Wetlands Atlas - The MoEFCC released the 'National Decadal Wetlands Change Atlas' in collaboration with Space Application Centre under Indian Space Research Organisation. Produced as an outcome of the 'National Wetland Inventory and Assessment - 2nd Cycle' project of the Space Application Center, the report provides data on wetland numbers and extent in 2017-18 and an assessment of change by comparison with the National Wetlands Atlas 2011 which used 2006-7 remote sensing data. This is the first time that a decadal change analysis on wetlands at a national scale has been published by the MoEFCC. In a marked improvement from the previous iteration, the report provides information on the extent of wetlands within various river basins and bio-geographic zones of India.

3)

>>> Launch of Amrit Dharohar Initiative - For the first time in India, wetlands were included in the national budget, introducing a targeted initiative titled Amrit Dharohar. Aligning with Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) this three-year initiative was launched in 2023 with the aim of promoting the unique conservation values of the Ramsar Sites of the country. Amrit Dharohar aims to create demonstration, replication and upscaling effect on other wetlands of national and international importance with the purpose of maintaining a healthy and effectively managed network of Ramsar Sites, buffering the landscape from the fury of nature, generating local employment and supporting livelihood; and conserve and celebrate rich cultural heritage. The initiative has four components: Species and habitat conservation, Nature tourism, Wetlands livelihoods and Wetlands carbon assessment. Under the ambit of this initiative, collaborations have been established between the MoEFCC and other relevant ministries, such as the Ministry of Tourism, to build capacities of local communities to enhance livelihood opportunities through nature tourism. Around 200 local community members across five Ramsar Sites, Sultanpur National Park in Haryana, Sirpur Lake and Yashwant Sagar in Madhya Pradesh, and Bhitarkanika Mangroves and Chilika Lake in Odisha have been trained on Alternative Livelihood Programmes subsequently certified as nature guides. In collaboration with the Central Institute of Educational Technology of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, a series of educational videos have been developed to sensitize primary, middle and senior-level students on the importance of wetland conservation and management. In collaboration with Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), MoEFCC has developed floral and faunal inventory of the Ramsar Sites. Furthermore, under Amrit Dharohar, MoEFCC has engaged the Biodiversity Management Committees at the village level to develop and update Peoples' Biodiversity Registers for the Ramsar Sites. A 'Standard Operating Procedure for Assessment of Carbon Stock in Wetlands' was released in collaboration with National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), which has been utilized to assess the Carbon-stock of around Ramsar Sites. In collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, and other knowledge partners, MoEFCC is developing a climate co-benefit (adaptation and mitigation benefits) assessment methodology for Indian wetlands. In 2023, MoEFCC with support from GIZ, launched a publication titled the 'Cultural Significance of Indian Wetlands' which is a compilation research data and lived experiences of the cultural linkages to wetlands in India.

Launch of Mission Sahbhagita - The MoEFCC launched mission Sahbhagita in 2022 as an essential step towards participatory conservation and wise use of wetlands. The mission is structured on the whole of society and whole of government approach, bringing communities and primary stakeholders to the forefront. People's participation is ensured at all levels of the execution of the mission through engaging the network of Wetland Mitra (an informal, voluntary and non-statutory network of concerned citizens to foster and promote

community engagement in wetlands conservation and management efforts) and local communities in wetland management planning, implementation, monitoring, communication, education and awareness activities. The Mission also aims to strengthen the mechanisms for inter-agency cooperation at the district and local levels through Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats to ensure the integration of wetlands within the district-level plans and programmes for different sectors such as tourism, disaster management, environment, and others. Under the aegis of Mission Sahbhagita, seven regional workshops were organised to provide a platform for wetland managers to share best wetland management practices and discuss key challenges and issues.

Launch of 'Save Wetlands Campaign' - Under the aegis of Mission Sahbhagita, the MoEFCC launched the Save Wetland Campaign, a people's movement to celebrate, revive and rejuvenate wetlands. The campaign is structured on the 'whole of society' approach for wetland conservation at all societal levels and involves all social strata. Through the Save Wetlands campaign, the Ministry envisages making wetland conservation a people's movement and inspire, infuse pride and ownership amongst stakeholders to adopt sustainable lifestyles for healthy wetlands and promote wise use of wetlands, aligning with Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) for wetlands. Significant milestones were achieved during the first year of the campaign that included, ground-truthing of more than 75,000 wetlands, sensitisation of more than 2,000,000 people and registration of more than 18000 people as Wetland Mitras (friends of wetlands).

Submission of proposals for Ramsar City Accreditation - For the first time, the Government of India has submitted three nominations from India for Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) of Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) & Udaipur (Rajasthan) under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The wetlands in and around these cities provide myriad benefits, such as flood regulation, livelihood opportunities, and recreational and cultural values. Sirpur Wetland (Ramsar site in Indore), Yashwant Sagar (Ramsar site closer to Indore), Bhoj Wetland (Ramsar Site in Bhopal), and several wetlands of national significance in and around Udaipur are lifelines to these cities. Additionally, since the COP 14 report, India has added 43 wetlands to the list of wetlands of international importance. The network of Ramsar Sites in India has expanded to 85, spanning 1.35 million Ha (~8% of the known wetland regime of the country).

4)

>>> **Communication and outreach** - The MoEFCC launched the national wetlands portal (www.indianwetlands.in) as a dynamic knowledge repository for wetlands. The portal acts as a single-point access system synthesising information on wetlands, projects and initiatives, training, and knowledge products. The portal has an interactive web interface that allows users to access information on wetlands, including health scores and management practices. The Ministry regularly organises events for communication and outreach. Annual celebrations of World Wetlands Day are organised at wetlands of international and national significance to raise awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and the planet. In 2024 the Ministry celebrated World Wetlands Day (WWD) at Sirpur Lake, Indore, a Ramsar site of Madhya Pradesh designated in 2022. The event was conducted by the MoEFCC in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Government of Madhya Pradesh and Indore Municipal Corporation. Dr Musonda Mumba, Hon'ble Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, visited India to attend this event on the occasion of WWD 2024. A six-month newsletter, Anup, is also published by the Ministry to keep stakeholders updated on significant developments in the states and the central government. Additionally, in collaboration with knowledge partners and State Wetlands Authorities, MoEFCC is currently developing CEPA Strategy documents for States to generate a National CEPA Strategy for India.

5)

>>> **South Asia Regional Platform** - During the CoP 14, the national governments endorsed the need for a South Asia Regional Platform at a side event on 'Regional Collaboration for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use in South Asia' held on November 8, 2022. It was also recommended that this platform will enable bringing South Asia wetlands management issues, challenges, and innovative practices to regional and global platforms. Wetlands International South Asia, in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal, held the roundtable meeting in Pokhara, Nepal, from 13-15 December 2023, which Ramsar Wetlands National Focal Point representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended. The focus of this meeting was to develop modalities for the operation of the Regional Platform for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use.

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

1)

>>> The biodiversity-centric criteria for site designation are increasingly failing to consider the significance of wetlands in supporting water and climate security.

2)

>>> The convention does not link to a financial mechanism for supporting the management of Ramsar Sites, building capacity for site management or promoting outreach on wetland values and functions.

3)

>>> Regional-level mechanisms for monitoring the health of designated Ramsar Sites are lacking. India suggested in a theme paper for the Asian Regional Meetings that a team of two to three experts from neighboring countries assess management interventions in Ramsar Sites to prevent any adverse change in ecological character.

4)

>>> The Convention does not yet provide an efficient mechanism for sharing best practices, lessons, and challenges in implementing wetland management programmes. Such processes need to be strengthened.

5)

>>> The majority of Convention Guidance does not directly address the day-to-day challenges faced by wetland managers. The guidance contains a very limited practical demonstration of concepts and approaches.

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

1)

>>> Ensuring the formulation and implementation of integrated management plans for wetlands, particularly their mainstreaming in developmental planning and decision-making, through collaboration with relevant ministries and agencies.

2)

>>> Strengthening financial mechanisms, including convergent funding from Central and State government-sponsored schemes and private sector engagement in wetlands conservation.

3)

>>> Promoting behavioural changes towards sustainable lifestyles, contributing to achieving wetlands conservation and wise use, and integrating sustainable lifestyles-based interventions in wetland management plans, programmes and investments at all levels.

Strengthening the local community for sustainable conservation and management of wetlands and operationalising the Panchayat level Wetland Committees with District level Wetland Committees.

4)

>>> Developing nature tourism at the Ramsar Sites to achieve wise use commitments, with a focus on shifting high-volume tourism at these fragile wetlands to high-value Nature Tourism. The initiative aims to directly support conservation actions and the livelihood of local communities by conducting communication, education, participation, and awareness activities through wetlands interpretation centres.

5)

>>> Safeguarding and enhancing wetland carbon by restoring degraded wetlands, restoring natural hydrology, rewetting, reducing eutrophication, and strengthening natural vegetation.

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

>>> Behavioural changes towards sustainable lifestyles contribute significantly to wetlands conservation and wise use. It is pertinent that more attention is paid to the potential of actions to be taken at individual and community levels. It is suggested that the STRP compiles methods, case studies and evidence base to support the integration of sustainable lifestyles in wetlands management in the context of, inter alia, the diversity of nature's values and approaches, including, as appropriate, eco-centric approaches, of individuals and communities including that of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, for living in harmony with Nature, or Mother Earth, as recognised by some countries and regions to enable sustainable lifestyles.

The Secretariat can also assist in operationalising the South Asia regional initiative to cater to the implementation needs of South Asian countries. The convention can also make efforts to provide training for wetlands managers.

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)?

>>> Wetlands International South Asia and WWF—India have been providing technical support to the Ministry in implementing the Convention and strengthening the overall wetland conservation programme. It is recommended that these organisations pursue implementing the Ramsar Convention commitments with States/UTs and further develop implementation capacity and outreach programmes.

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.

>>> In the State/Union Territory Wetland Authorities established under the provisions of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, significant progress has been made toward ensuring gender representation. Efforts to maintain a balanced representation of all genders in policy and decision-making committees have contributed to the effective conservation and management of wetlands. Volunteer groups like Wetland Mitra include a growing number of women actively participating in conservation actions and CEPA activities. The increasing presence of women in formal roles, such as Ramsar Site Managers, Forest Officers, and Member Secretaries of State/UT Wetland Authorities, reflects this positive shift. While these advancements are encouraging, continued efforts are being made to further enhance women's engagement and achieve a stronger gender balance in all aspects of wetland conservation and management.

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

>>> a. Wetlands and their conservation should be integrated into the formal education sector to ensure more participation from all genders in the workforce in sectors that affect wetlands.
b. Develop gender equality targets in wetland conservation policies and programmes and mandate gender impact assessments for all wetland-related projects to ensure equal benefits and opportunities for all genders.
c. Training of wetland managers on integrating gender in wetlands conservation while promoting gender-sensitive livelihood development.
d. Sharing best practices and case studies on gender integration in wetlands conservation policy, programmes and actions. Recognize and formalize the role of women in community-driven wetland conservation initiatives.

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

>>> a. Gender inclusion is a pre-requisite for wetland wise use
b. Gender equality considerations enhance the social acceptability of wetland management
c. Impacts of wetlands degradation are gender-differentiated

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

>>> 1. The Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, mandate the constitution of a Biodiversity Management Committee. The committee consists of a chairperson and no more than six persons nominated by the local body. About one-third of the members should be women.
2. To bring women into the mainstream of political leadership at the grassroots level, the government has reserved 33% of the seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions for women. Capacity building of panchayat stakeholders, including Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, is conducted to empower women to participate effectively in the governance process.
3. Government of India encourages gender-responsive budgeting in the country through various measures, including setting up Gender Budgeting Cells in the Ministries and Departments with the following objectives: organising workshops to facilitate capacity building and training for various stakeholders, providing assistance to develop training modules/ packages, training material and information, booklets and manuals for gender budgeting, to provide assistance to support research studies, surveys among others.
4. India implements the 'Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women' (STEP), which aims to provide skills that give employability to women and provide competencies enabling them to become self-employed/entrepreneurs in sectors including but not limited to Agriculture, Horticulture, Food Processing, Handlooms, Tailoring, Handicrafts among others.

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).

>>> The MoEFCC is implementing the 'Save Wetlands Campaign', which aims to create mass awareness about the importance of wetland conservation and management while actively involving local communities and youth. During the campaign, 8,393 events have been conducted, 20,95,932 people have been sensitized, and 8,74,656 wetland Mitras have been registered. The Save Wetlands Campaign is currently in its second phase. The MoEFCC, in collaboration with CIET (Central Institute of Educational Technology), NCERT, developed a series of educational videos for sensitising primary, middle and senior-level students on the importance of wetland conservation and management. Photography, painting and slogan competitions have also been organised as part of World Wetlands Day for school students.

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

>>> MoEF&CC has consulted all the State Wetlands Authority (SWAs) and Knowledge Partners (namely Wetlands International South Asia (WISA), World Wide Fund for Nature - India, Zoological Survey of India, Botanical Survey of India, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Wildlife Institute of India, Centre for Water Resources Development and Management, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Chilika Development Authority, Environmental Planning & Coordination Organization, Gujarat Ecological Education and Research

Foundation) while preparing the National Report.

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

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

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

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

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

Target 1

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14]

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

Please select only one per square.

a) National policy or strategy for wetland management	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Poverty eradication strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
g) National policies or measures on agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
i) National policies on energy and mining	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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 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

Target 2

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

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

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

☒ A=Yes

2.1 Additional Information

>>> Detailed hydrological regime assessments are integral to integrated wetland management plans. Additionally, to enhance hydrological monitoring, the Amrit Dharohar initiative envisaged incorporating the National Wetland Quality Assessment network of the Central Pollution Control Board and the National Grid of Hydrological Stations of the Central Water Commission.

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

☒ A=Yes

2.2 Additional Information

>>> The environmental flow assessments are integrated within the Integrated Management Plans of the wetlands and have been undertaken for several key wetlands of national and international significance. The country's existing legal framework also directs the maintenance of the environmental flows for River Ganga and other major rivers of the country.

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 Amrit Dharohar Initiative aims to secure the unique conservation values of Ramsar Sites of India, including rejuvenating wetlands to enhance water security.

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

☒ A=Yes

2.4 Additional Information

>>> The guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands have been incorporated into the integrated management planning of the wetlands in India.

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

>>> The Government of India, vide Notification dated 9th October 2018 has notified minimum environmental flows to be maintained in river Ganga at locations downstream of structures or projects meant to divert river flows for purposes like irrigation, hydropower, domestic and industrial and other requirements. The notified environmental flow regime is monitored and supervised by the Central Water Commission (CWC). Additionally, several guidelines have been issued to promote good practices in water resources management for urban wetlands.

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

☒ C=Partially

2.6 Additional Information

>>> Constructed wetlands technologies are increasingly being used to augment existing wastewater treatment capacity.

Target 3

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

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

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

☒ A=Yes

3.1 Additional Information

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

>>> The MoEFCC is actively fostering partnerships with the private sector for wetlands conservation. A Memorandum of Cooperation has been signed between the Indian Business and Biodiversity Initiative (established by the MoEFCC and the CII to enable Indian Businesses to make commitments for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use) and the MoEFCC. The Indian Wetland Coalition (IWC) was launched in 2022 to enable business partnerships for wetland conservation, address the risk of nature loss, and build resilience to climate change.

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

Please select only one per square.

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

3.2 Additional information

>>> i) DCM Shriram Foundation: With efforts to stabilise groundwater levels and ensure perennial flow in the Sai River, this foundation has been working with communities in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh, towards pond rejuvenation, desilting and spreading awareness of the importance of wetland conservation through the celebration of the annual Sai Utsav Festival.

ii) TVS Motor Company: The water conservation initiatives, in terms of various rainwater harvesting methods deployed at their project sites, have not only made considerable positive impacts on their operations by making them self-sufficient regarding water requirements but also contributed to improving the biodiversity of the surrounding areas.

iii) Hindustan Zinc Limited: In a unique 'Public Private Partnership in Rajasthan, the construction of a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Udaipur has reduced the dependency on and consumption of freshwater by 85% at its industrial complex operation, maintained the ecological stability of local lakes and generated manure from residual sludge for use by local farmers.

iv) Apollo Tyres Ltd: Under the mangrove conservation project in Kannur, Kerala, Apollo Tyres Ltd. Has restored 10 acres of degraded mangrove area, developed mangrove-nurseries and an interpretation centre for mangrove-based nature education, promoted community based initiatives, enhancing public awareness, and linking mangrove protection to sustainable livelihoods.

v) The Western bank of the Thane Creek is the single largest mangrove belt in Mumbai. A substantial tract of mangrove land adjoins the Godrej & Boyce township, Pirojshanagar, in Vikhroli, a suburb of Mumbai. Soonahai Pirojsha Godrej Marine Ecology Centre, supported by Godrej, has conserved the vast area under mangroves.

vi) The wetland interpretation centre at Bharatpur has been established with the support of Swarovski. Under the Mangroves for Future Initiative coordinated by IUCN, a wetland restoration initiative is being developed in Gujarat in partnership with Tata Chemicals.

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).

>>> MoEFCC, through the National Plan for Conservation of Ecosystem Services Scheme and Externally Aided projects such as Global Environment Facility funded Integrated Management of Wetland Biodiversity and

Ecosystem Services and Mainstreaming Natural Capital Values into Planning and Implementation for Sustainable Blue Economic Growth in Indian Coastal Districts, provides financial assistance to the State/Union Territories Wetland authorities in implementing integrated management plans. Additionally, Knowledge Partners, through various projects such as BMU-funded Wetland Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection, provide technical assistance to the Wetland Authorities for wetland management. Under the Nature Tourism component of the Amrit Dharohar initiative, the ministry has been conducting training programmes on Alternative Livelihood and Paryavaran Naavik Certification to enhance livelihood opportunities for local communities.

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.

>>> The regulatory regime for wetlands discourages any further degradation. The Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, in conjunction with various environment protection and conservation laws, proactively inhibit adverse changes in wetland health. To monitor the health of the wetland, health cards are prepared regularly to ensure the maintenance of the wetland's ecological character. Indian Judiciary has also taken up an active role in removing any perverse measures leading to encroachment, pollution or non-compliance to extant regulations related to wetlands.

Target 4

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6]

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

☒ A=Yes

4.1 Additional information

>>> An inventory of invasive alien species of India was published by the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai, in 2019 (<http://nbaindia.org/cebpol/pub/iaslist.pdf>). The status of plant and animal invasive species has been documented in several site management plans and research studies.

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

☒ B=No

4.2 Additional information

>>> While no national policy has been made for invasive species, their management and control are important to site management. Several models have been tested in this area, which involve regulation of drivers creating enabling conditions for invasion (for example, promoting organic agriculture to reduce nutrient loading from agriculture) and economic use (for example: handicrafts from Eichhornia).

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

☒ E=# species

>>> 5

4.3 Additional Information

>>> The integrated management planning includes the management of invasive species as one of the core objectives. Actions to control invasive species have been taken up in several wetlands of national and international importance such as Keoladeo National Park, Loktak, Sandi Bird Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Samaspur Bird Sanctuary, Sirpur, Ansupa, Pala, Sur Sarovar, Sarsai Nawar, Saman Bird Sanctuary, Lakh Bahosi Sanctuary, Sita Sagar lake, Zaimeng lake and Tamdil.

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

☒ A=Yes

4.4 Additional Information

>>> The effectiveness of the management actions for control of invasive species is integrated into monitoring measures included in the integrated management planning. Management effectiveness is also tracked through the application of the Management Effectiveness Tracking tool developed by contextualising R-METT for Indian wetlands.

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

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

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

Target 5

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

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

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

☒ A=Yes

5.1 Additional information

>>> Elements of the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List have been incorporated into the revised NPCA guidelines released in 2024, which identify priority sites by the State Governments/UTs. As an outcome, India has expanded the network of Ramsar Sites from 42 during COP 13 reporting to 85. 18 more sites are prioritized and are at various stages of designation.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 34

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 34

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 24

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

If "yes", please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

If "partially", please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

If "planned", please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

☒ C=Partially

>>> A Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool has been developed specifically for Indian Wetlands. A Management Effectiveness Evaluation has been conducted for 25 Ramsar Sites. The MoEFCC's Amrit Dharohar initiative envisages establishing baseline management effectiveness scores for all Ramsar Sites by 2026.

5.5 Additional information

Please provide the source links or upload the source documents here indicating the assessment tool used (e.g. Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), Resolution XII.15), and the source of the information.

>>> A guidebook for the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool has been prepared for site managers. The METT form has been attached in the guidebook (Link: <https://indianwetlands.in/wp-content/uploads/library/1707134041.pdf>)

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

[METT for Indian Wetlands](#) - METT for Indian Wetlands

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

☒ E=# Sites

5.6 Additional information

>>> As an outcome of the notification of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, State/Union Territory Wetland Authorities have been constituted in all states and UTs across India as cross-sectoral wetland governance mechanisms. Additionally, Wetland Mitras (Friends of Wetlands) have been constituted in each Ramsar Site as an informal, voluntary and non-statutory network of concerned citizens to foster and promote community engagement in wetlands.

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

☒ E=# Sites

5.7 Additional information

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

>>> Ecological character description is available for all the Ramsar Sites in their respective Ramsar Information Sheets. The NPCA guidelines also direct the inclusion of a detailed ecological character description of the wetlands including the change, in the integrated management plans.

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.

>>> a. Getting detailed information on ecological character description and change in ecological character.

b. Validation of maps, incorporating existing rights and privileges.

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

>>> Mechanisms such as Wetland Health Cards have been developed to periodically assess the changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites (Link: <https://indianwetlands.in/resources-and-e-learning/health-card-dashboard/>). Other mechanisms include periodic review meetings and regional workshops with the State/Union Territory Wetland Authorities and field visits.

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}

☒ C=Some Cases

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

>>> The Ministry has taken cognisance of adverse changes in wetlands. It assists the respective state governments in implementing Integrated Management Plans to address drivers of adverse change in ecological character.

Section 3 - Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

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

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

Target 8

National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 21]

8.1 Does your country have a National Wetland Inventory (NWI)? {8.1}

☒ A=Yes

8.1 Additional information

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

>>> The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has sponsored the ‘National Wetland Inventory and Assessment’ project, executed by Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, to map the country's wetlands at a 1:50,000 scale. Using a 19 wetland type classification, state and union territory-wise wetland maps were prepared. The overall extent of wetlands in India has been assessed to be 15.26 million ha, equivalent to 4.63% of the country's geographical area. The National Wetland Atlas is available in the public domain. Atlases on High Altitude Lakes and Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) were also prepared and published in 2012 and 2013, respectively. In 2022, the Ministry released National Decadal Wetlands Change Atlas which provides data on wetland number and extent in 2017-18 and an assessment of change in data since 2006-7, which was recorded in the National Wetlands Atlas 2011.

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

☒ A=Yes

8.2 Additional information

>>> A Decadal Change Atlas was prepared and released in 2022, which provides data on wetland number and extent in 2017-18 and an assessment of change in data since 2006-7, which was recorded in the National Wetlands Atlas 2011.

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ B=Irregularly \geq 7 years

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

☒ A=Yes

8.4 Additional information

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

>>> The national as well as state and district-level maps and statistics are available in the public domain and can be downloaded from the Wetlands Portal of India. In addition to the national maps, several sites have developed detailed inventories to support the management of wetlands. These inventories are developed in consultation with stakeholders, and efforts are made for their proactive dissemination.

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

>>> The national, state, and district-level maps and statistics are available in the public domain. As part of the Save Wetlands Campaign, ground truthing of the NWI's spatial data is being undertaken.

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

>>> 1,59,815.17 Km²

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>.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[India_Wetland_Extent.docx](#) - Wetland Extent of India

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km²)
--	---

A -- Permanent shallow marine waters	
B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds	
C -- Coral reefs	
D -- Rocky marine shores	
E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores	
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)

>>> 36204.51

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

>>> 70157.18

8.6 Human-made wetlands total (km2)

>>> 53453.48

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

Please select only one per square.

a) Marine/coastal	<input type="checkbox"/> 5=major improvement <input type="checkbox"/> 4=improvement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3=no change <input type="checkbox"/> 2=deterioration <input type="checkbox"/> 1=major deterioration

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

8.9 What are your main needs in developing or updating an NWI to 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Standardization in data interpretation methods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Relevant skills	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Data collection and mapping	<input 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.

	Yes
a) Resources	<input 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 checked="" 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

>>> The National Environment Policy of 2006 identifies wetlands as components of freshwater resources and recommends the integration of wetlands in developing planning, management-based prudent use strategies, promotion of ecotourism and implementation of a regulatory framework. In 2017, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which prohibits the conversion of wetlands, discharge of untreated pollutants and regulates a number of developmental activities in these ecosystems.

In June 2023, the Ministry launched the Amrit Dharohar initiative to promote the unique conservation values of Ramsar Sites. The three-year initiative, through its four components—species and Habitat Conservation, Wetlands Livelihoods, Nature Tourism, and Wetlands Carbon Assessment—aims to create, demonstrate, replicate, and upscale the effect on wetlands of national and international importance.

The National Climate Action Plan includes wetland conservation and sustainable management in the National Water and Green India Mission.

India's National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031) identifies the conservation of inland aquatic ecosystems as one of the 17 priority areas. It envisages the development of a national wetlands biodiversity register as a key intervention.

Wetlands are integrated in Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Protocol.

Additionally, India has also released criteria and guidelines on identifying Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM), including inland and coastal wetlands.

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

>>> To expedite the process of integrated management planning of the Indian wetlands, the MoEFCC revised the guidelines of the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems, the Government of India's flagship scheme on wetlands conservation. The revised guidelines introduced a graded two-stage approach for integrated management plan preparation with the Introduction of a Framework Management Plan. This enables acting on the available information and, at the same time, builds an evidence base through assessments and stakeholder consultations for developing a comprehensive Integrated Management Plan for the site.

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 National Water Policy (2012) considers wetlands as natural infrastructure for managing floods.

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 management plans for Ramsar Sites in India are based on catchment scale planning and include CEPA as an integral element. The Government of India is implementing the Save Wetlands Campaign to raise awareness among the communities regarding the importance of wetlands and the need for participatory conservation.

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

☒ A=Yes

9.5 Additional information

>>> The National Climate Action Plan identifies the Conservation of Wetlands, including high-altitude wetlands, as a component of the National Water and Green India Mission, one of the eight missions identified by the government as a response strategy to climate change mitigation and adaptation. In June 2023, the Amrit Dharohar initiative was launched to promote the unique conservation values of the Ramsar Sites. Component 4 of the initiative emphasises the role played by a healthy network of Ramsar Sites in climate change mitigation. Activities such as standard protocol for GHG inventory of wetlands baseline GHG account of Ramsar Sites (carbon stock, sequestration rates) have been mentioned in the initiative. Currently MoEFCC is developing a climate co-benefit (adaptation and mitigation benefits) assessment methodology for Indian wetlands.

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

☒ A=Yes

9.6 Additional Information

>>> The National Climate Action Plan identifies Conservation of Wetlands, including high-altitude wetlands, as a component of the National Water and Green India Mission, one of the 8 missions identified by the government as a resource strategy for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

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

>>> Technologies for sustainable aquaculture and system of rice intensification which reduce water and fertiliser intake in production processes are being promoted- The role of inland and coastal wetlands in sustaining capture fisheries is well-recognized within the programmes of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture.

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

>>> Cases from India were provided in the scoping document on Guidelines for Agriculture Wetlands Interactions. A chapter on wetlands is being drafted for consideration for inclusion under National Communication to the UNFCCC. As part of the Amrit Dharohar Initiative of the Government of India, carbon stock assessments of the Ramsar Sites are being carried out to understand the climate mitigation potential of the wetlands.

In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, Wetlands International South Asia has undertaken a project to evaluate the key ecosystem services in the Himalayan (Lahaul Pangi) landscape. In collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, and other knowledge partners, MoEFCC is developing a climate co-benefit (adaptation and mitigation benefits) assessment methodology for Indian wetlands.

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

>>> In January 2021, the National Mission for Clean Ganga developed a toolkit titled 'Urban Wetland/Waterbodies Management Guidelines'. The toolkit puts forth a methodology to assess the role of water bodies and prioritise them for conservation/rejuvenation and mainstreaming conservation of wetlands/water bodies in the development/planning process. It is a strategic step towards increasing the capacity of urban wetland managers. The city development plans,

and Smart City plans emphasize wetland conservation and management. One of the outcomes of AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation and Wetlands) Mission 2.0 includes rejuvenating urban wetlands.

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

☒ C=Partially

9.10 Additional information

>>> The Ministry of Jal Shakti has prioritised the conservation of small wetlands as water resources under the 'Water for All' mission. The Government of India launched Mission Amrit Sarovar in April 2022. The mission aims to develop and rejuvenate 75 Amrit Sarovar (Pond) in each district of the country, totalling about 50,000 Amrit Sarovar.

Target 10

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

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

☒ A=Yes

10.1 Additional Information

>>> The Government of India's Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition Of Forest Rights) Act, also known as the Forests Right Act, 2006, recognises and secures the rights to forest lands and other resources of the forest-dwelling communities, including the indigenous communities. The Act recognises "uses or entitlements such as fish and other products of water bodies, grazing (both settled or transhumant) and traditional seasonal resource access communities" and "access to biodiversity and community right to intellectual property and traditional knowledge related to biodiversity and cultural diversity" as rights of the forest-dwelling scheduled tribes and other forest dwellers. The Act also empowers the right holders to protect the wildlife, biodiversity, catchment areas, wetlands, other ecologically sensitive areas.

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

>>> As part of the report 'G20 Culture: Shaping the Global Narrative for Inclusive Growth', launched by the G20 Ministers of Culture during the G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting under India's presidency, the Ministry of Culture has highlighted Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) as a guiding principle for sustainable utilisation of the natural resources. Mission LiFE advocates a mindful and deliberate utilisation of resources rooted in cultural ethos and traditional knowledge, fostering sustainability and a harmonious relationship with nature. The initiative encourages an environmentally conscious lifestyle based on circular economy principles, calling for reevaluating individual choices to embrace sustainable practices that respect the planet and its resources. By harnessing living heritage and cultural wisdom, Culture for LiFE aims to bridge the gap between tradition and sustainability, offering solutions for a more sustainable future for all.

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

☒ A=Yes

10.3 Additional information

>>> The MoEFCC's publication titled 'Cultural Significance of Indian Wetlands' showcases the cultural values of wetlands and delves into the traditional knowledge, local beliefs, festivals, community practices, and folktales related to wetlands.

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.

>>> Mission Sahbhagita of the MoEFCC aims towards participatory conservation and wise use of wetlands to enable a society ownership approach with communities leading at the forefront. Similarly, the Save Wetlands Campaign has been launched by the Government of India to create mass awareness about the importance of wetland conservation and management while actively involving local communities in the integrated management and monitoring of wetlands and getting community-based organisations, businesses, line departments, and knowledge partners to join hands to save the degrading wetlands.

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

>>> The traditional knowledge and management practices are documented in the Integrated Management Plans prepared for wetlands.

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}

☒ A=Yes

11.1 Additional information

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

>>> The assessment of ecosystem services is included in the brief document and Ramsar Information Sheets of the Ramsar Sites. Additionally, tools such as Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem Services and Ecosystem Services Shared Values Assessment have been conducted for several Ramsar Sites, such as Kabartal, Sasthamkotta, Harike, Chilika, Tampara, and Vembanad-kol, among others.

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

>>> Amrit Dharohar initiative was launched in 2023 to promote the unique conservation values of Ramsar Sites. Component 3 (Wetlands Livelihoods) aims to enhance livelihood opportunities linked with conservation and the wise use of Ramsar Sites. Activities such as supporting microenterprise linkages and comprehensive coverage of drinking water and sanitation facilities around wetlands have been listed under the initiative.

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

>>> The MoEFCC has been implementing the Amrit Dharohar Initiative, which aims to promote the unique conservation values of the Ramsar Sites. Its various activities are categorised under four components, species and habitat conservation, wetlands livelihoods, nature tourism, and wetlands carbon contribute towards human well-being.

The MoEFCC is also implementing the Global Environment Facility-funded Integrated Management of Wetland Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services project, which aims to enhance the management effectiveness of wetlands across the country and contribute to the well-being of the communities directly dependent on them. MoEFCC is implementing a IKI-BMUV funded technical cooperation project with GIZ which strengthen the institutional framework and capacities for an ecosystem-based integrated management of wetlands while demonstrating approaches for ecosystem-based sustainable livelihoods, community engagement, and adaptation measures.

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

>>> Socio-economic value recognition and inclusion form an integral part of site management planning.

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

>>> Cultural value recognition and inclusion form an integral part of site management planning and are also included as an important aspect in the implementation of the Nature tourism component of the Amrit Dharohar Initiative.

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 wetlands restoration targets have been integrated in India’s National Biodiversity Targets.

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

☒ C=Partially

12.2 Additional information

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

>>> The site prioritisation is undertaken on the basis of wetland health scores that are developed every two years to monitor adverse change in the wetland ecological character.

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

☒ D=Planned

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

>>> Under the aegis of the ‘Indo-German Support Project for Climate Action in India’, implemented by GIZ in partnership with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) under the International Climate Initiative (IKI), Wetlands International South Asia and Stichting Wetlands International are preparing an inventory of peatlands in India for advancing their effective management and encourage urgent action to integrate peatlands into national climate strategies and programmes.

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 type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
-----------	---

b) Mining	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
f) Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
g) Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
h) Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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 type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

13.1 Additional Information

>>> Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with MoEFCC, launched the Alternative Livelihood Programme to enhance livelihood opportunities for local communities by harnessing the nature tourism potential of the Ramsar Sites across the country. Around 200 local community members across five Ramsar Sites, Sultanpur National Park in Haryana, Sirpur Lake and Yashwant Sagar in Madhya Pradesh, and Bhitarkanika Mangroves and Chilika Lake in Odisha have been trained on nature-tourism and have been certified as nature guides. The Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act 2005 prohibits the conversion of natural coastal wetlands such as mangroves, salt pans, estuaries, and lagoons for aquaculture.

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

☒ C=Partially

13.2 Additional information

>>> The management plans are encouraged to adopt Strategic Environment Assessments (SEAs) as tools to safeguard wetland values. However, enhanced efforts and capacity is required to ensure wider application.

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 existing regulatory framework requires commissioning an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) for developmental projects likely to impact critical ecosystems such as wetlands. Implementing Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 has further strengthened the process.

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.

>>> During the CoP 14, at a side event on ‘Regional Collaboration for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use in South Asia’ held on November 8, 2022 the national governments of India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar endorsed the need for a South Asia Regional Platform. It was also recommended that this platform will enable bringing South Asia wetlands management issues, challenges, and innovative practices to regional and global platforms.

Wetlands International South Asia in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal, held the roundtable meeting in Pokhara, Nepal, from 13-15 December 2023, which was attended by Ramsar Wetlands National Focal Point representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The focus of this meeting was to develop modalities for the operation of the Regional Platform for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use. The key modalities to guide the operational approach of the Ramsar Regional Platform included:

1. The vision for the Regional Platform was specified as – A well-conserved and effectively managed wetland network as a contribution to sustainable development in the South Asia region.
2. The mission for the Regional Platform was stated as – Support all stakeholders in inclusive and integrated wetland management through international cooperation, networking, knowledge development and exchange of best practices, funding support and capacity development.
3. The objectives set out emphasised supporting the implementation of Ramsar Convention commitments and Strategic Plans; enhancing regional coordination, cooperation, and networking in South Asia; building the capacity of stakeholders to design and implement wetland conservation and management programmes and operating a Wetlands Fund to support the implementation of strategic priorities for the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the South Asia region.
4. The Regional Platform's geographic coverage will include the present Ramsar Convention Contracting Parties in South Asia and the new countries as they become members of the Ramsar Convention.
5. A three-tier Governance Framework for the Regional Platform was adopted. The Steering Committee will include the Ramsar National Focal Points as the nodal authority and meet at least once a year. An Advisory Committee exclusively for South Asia will be constituted. The committee will recommend topics and issues for the development of the work programme of the Regional Initiative. An Executive Committee will appoint thematic leads and oversee fundraising for programme implementation.
6. The South Asia Regional Platform would collaborate with different national and international organisations through a Memorandum of Understanding, Technical Cooperation, and Funded Projects approved by the Steering Committee.
7. Resource mobilisation efforts will largely be directed at capacity development, creating a Small Grants Fund to support wetland action, developing strategic knowledge products, joint technology development and regional monitoring programmes.

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

☒ A=Yes

15.2 Additional information

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

>>> India has played a partial role in the implementation of the work programme of the Ramsar Regional Centre for East Asia.

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

>>> Under the aegis of Mission Sahbhagita, the MoEFCC launched the Save Wetland Campaign, a people’s movement to celebrate, revive and rejuvenate wetlands. The campaign is structured on the ‘whole of society’ approach for wetland conservation at all levels of society and involves all strata of society. Through the Save Wetlands campaign, the Ministry envisages making wetland conservation a people’s movement and inspire, infuse pride and ownership amongst stakeholders to adopt sustainable lifestyles for healthy wetlands and promote wise use of wetlands, aligning with Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) for wetlands. Additionally, in collaboration with knowledge partners and State Wetlands Authorities, MoEFCC is currently developing CEPA Strategy documents for States to generate a National CEPA Strategy for India.

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

>>> 12

b) at other wetlands

☒ E=# centres

>>> 2

16.2 Additional information

>>> Visitor Centres have been constructed at the following locations: Sundarbans Wetland, Sarsai Nawar Jheel, Sur Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Sandi Bird Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Samaspur Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary, Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve, Harike Wetland, Chilika Lake, Thane Creek, Sirpur Wetland, Bhoj Wetland, Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Pong Dam Lake, Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, Wadhvana Wetland, and Khijadiya Wildlife Sanctuary.

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

>>> Stakeholder participation is a mandatory criterion for formulating and implementing all management action plans supported by the MoEFCC. State Wetland Authorities have been the state’s main policy and regulatory body for wetland conservation and management. MoEFCC has constituted the Wetland Mitras

network to enable collaborative and participatory management. Mission Sahbhagita has been launched as an essential step towards participatory conservation and wise use of wetlands. The mission is structured on the whole of society and the whole government approach, bringing communities and primary stakeholders to the forefront. The Ministry launched the Save Wetlands Campaign in 2023 to make wetlands conservation a people's movement. The campaign aims to sensitise people about wetland values, increase wetland mitras coverage and build citizen partnerships for wetland conservation. In the first phase of the campaign, more than 2 million people were sensitised and more than 18,000 Wetland Mitras were registered.

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

☒ A=Yes

16.4 Additional information

>>> A National Wetlands Committee headed by the Secretary (MoEFCC) has been constituted under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

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

>>> State Wetland Authorities have been constituted in each State/UT to meet the stipulations under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. These authorities included experts in hydrology, wetland ecology, fisheries, landscape planning and socio-economics.

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

>>> The Ramsar Implementation guidelines in handbooks and resolutions are shared within the regional consultative workshops.

16.7 Has your country organized any Convention on Wetlands-branded World Wetlands Day events, whether led by government or NGOs, since COP14? {16.7}

☒ A=Yes

16.7 Additional information

>>> The Ministry regularly organises outreach events on World Wetlands Day. In 2023, a national-level event was organised at Indore and was attended by Dr Musonda Mumba, Secretary General Ramsar Convention Wetlands, as a special guest.

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

>>> Save Wetlands Campaign was launched in 2023 under Mission Sahbhagita to make wetland conservation a people's movement. Activities have been carried out to infuse pride and ownership amongst stakeholders to adopt sustainable lifestyles for healthy wetlands and promote the wise use of wetlands. As the campaign completes a year, 8393 events have been organised nationwide, and 2095932 people have been sensitised. More than 18,000 wetland mitras have been registered. The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal

Management (NCSCM) promoted the themes of Mission LiFE in several wetlands as part of World Environment Day 2023. To engage more citizens, a rigorous social media campaign ahead of World Wetlands Day was organised to generate awareness. Wetlands for LiFE, a film festival was launched during World Wetlands Day 2024 to raise awareness and foster dialogue around the significance of wetlands engaging citizens and youth including media students. Furthermore, Nation-wide Photography, painting, street-play and slogan competitions were organised.

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

>>> The Wetlands Portal of India serves as a one-stop source of information on the wetlands in the country. The portal contains brief documents and health cards of wetlands of national and international importance. Apart from that, all the relevant publications from MoEFCC and knowledge partners are also available on the portal. A factbook on Ramsar Sites of India has been prepared and is available on the website.

Target 17

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

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

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

17.3 Additional information

for example from which countries or agencies

>>> The MoEFCC, in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUV), launched the Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection project in 2018. The project's main objective is to strengthen the institutional framework and capacities for an ecosystem-based integrated management of wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites) in India while demonstrating approaches for ecosystem-based sustainable livelihoods, community engagement, and adaptation measures.

A UNEP/GEF-funded full-sized project, 'Integrated Management of Wetlands for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' supports in-country wetlands conservation and management, especially addressing capacity development and knowledge assessment needs. Another full-sized GEF project has been endorsed in 2022, 'Mainstreaming Natural Capital Values into Planning and Implementation for Sustainable Blue Economic Growth in Indian Coastal District. The objective is to enhance the biodiversity conservation and environmental sustainability of critical coastal landscapes in India by integrating natural capital and ecosystem services values in the district-level blue economy strategy, spatial planning processes, and coastal sector operations.

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.

>>> National Implementation of Strategic Plan elements is covered under the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) funding stream, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) and National Programme for Conservation of Mangroves and Coral Reefs. Additional resources are available through the Green India Mission, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) and National Action Plan on Climate Change.

Under the NPCA scheme financial assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Authorities for wetlands conservation and management. The scheme covers various activities such as interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, in-situ cleaning i.e., desilting & de-weeding, biodiversity conservation, storm water management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, sustainable fisheries development, weed control, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc.

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

>>> Wetlands International South Asia and WWF-India provide regular technical support in implementing the Convention and the CEPA programme. The UNEP is a GEF agency for implementing the Integrated Management of Wetland Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Project, which the MoEFCC is implementing.

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

>>> A roundtable meeting on the Wise Use of Wetlands of South Asia through Regional Collaboration and Exchange was organised at Pokhara, Nepal on December 13-15, 2023. The overarching aim of the meeting

was to develop modalities for the operation of the Regional Platform for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use in South Asia and submit a proposal to the Ramsar Convention to establish a Ramsar Regional Initiative in South Asia. Wetlands International South Asia organised the meeting with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

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

☒ A=Yes

18.5 Additional information

>>> Wetlands International South Asia has carried out a preliminary assessment of transboundary wetlands as a part of the Transboundary Water Assessment Programme of GEF.

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

☒ C=Partially

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

>>> India has been a party to the CMS since 1983, engaging in various initiatives to protect migratory species and their habitats. The country launched a National Action Plan to conserve migratory species, particularly under the Central Asian Flyway, which supports over 279 populations of 182 migratory water-bird species, including 29 globally threatened species. India hosted the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP13) in February 2020, focusing on collaborative efforts for migratory species conservation. The conference resulted in adding several new species to the CMS Appendices, including the Asian Elephant and Great Indian Bustard. India has signed non-legally binding MoUs for various migratory species, including Siberian Cranes (1993 and revised in 1999) and Raptors (2016). Establishing Common Service Centres (CSCs) across rural areas has facilitated access to government services, helping raise awareness about migratory species and conservation efforts among local communities.

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}

☒ A=Yes

19.1 Additional information

>>> The MoEFCC regularly organises regional workshops to assess the capacity needs of the wetland managers and best practices and knowledge sharing on the management and conservation of wetlands.

Under the Integrated Management of Wetlands Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IMWBES) project, a Capacity and Training Needs Assessment was carried out in 2022 to assess and analyse the gaps between the existing competence and the additional capacities required for the effective and sustainable management of wetlands in the country.

Wetlands International South Asia has surveyed to map the relevance of different competencies required for preparing Integrated Management Plans. Competency mapping has been done to develop a training curriculum on integrated management planning and implementation for wetland managers and other relevant stakeholders.

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

☒ A=Yes

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

>>> Wetlands form a part of the formal curriculum of the training programme of Indian Forest Service officials. Topics related to wetland conservation and wise use are included in Masters level programmes of selected

universities and institutes. The MoEFCC, in collaboration with Central Institute of Educational Technology and the National Council of Educational Research and Training, developed a series of educational videos for sensitizing primary, middle and senior-level students on the importance of wetland conservation and management. The video series was launched on World Wetlands Day 2024. Further efforts for inclusion in other educational programmes are underway.

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

☒ E=# opportunities

>>> 11

19.4 Additional information

>>> The MoEFCC has organised seven regional consultative workshops nationwide under Mission Sahbhagita in Goa, Kerala, Manipur, Odisha, Telangana, West Bengal, and Sikkim from 2023 to 2024. The workshops provided the State/UT Wetland Authorities a platform to share wetland management experiences, success stories, best practices and challenges. State-level training sessions and workshops are also organised for the Ramsar Site managers. Electronic modules have been prepared by GIZ and Wetlands International South Asia on an introductory course on Wetland Conservation and Management in India. The course presents a basic understanding of wetlands, their values and services, wise use of wetlands, and clarity on principles of integrated management planning for wetlands, including sectoral coordination and wetland governance.

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

☒ A=Yes

19.5 Additional information

>>> The CoP 14 report has been used as a benchmark to assess the progress achieved during the period leading up to CoP15. Periodic review meetings are conducted within the Wetlands Division of the Ministry to progress the implementation of the Convention.

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

Goal 1

Target 1: Wetland benefits

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]

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 1: Wetland benefits - National Targets

>>> A

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Planned activity

>>> C

Target 1: Wetland benefits - 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

>>> Wetland conservation has been prioritised through various national policies, plans, and programmes, such as the National Environment Policy (2006), the National Water Policy (2012), the National Biodiversity Action Plan, the National Wildlife Action Plan, and the Amrit Sarovar Scheme.

Target 2: Water Use

Water use 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]

Target 2: Water Use - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 2: Water Use - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 2: Water Use - National Targets

>>> A

Target 2: Water Use - Planned activity

>>> A

Target 2: Water Use - 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 National Guidelines for Integrated Water Resources Development and Management integrate wetlands conservation at appropriate basin/ coastal zones. Additionally, the National Water Policy, 2012 states that Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), taking river basin/subbasin as a unit, should be the main principle for planning, developing, and managing water resources, including wetlands.

Target 3: Public and private sectors

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]

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 3: Public and private sectors - National Targets

>>> A

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Planned activity

>>> C

Target 3: Public and private sectors - 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

>>> Indian companies have joined hands to address the critical issue of biodiversity loss under a national initiative. The India Business & Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI), initiated by the MoEFCC, serves as a national platform for businesses and their stakeholders for dialogue sharing and learning, ultimately leading to mainstreaming sustainable management of biological diversity into businesses. The mission of IBBI is that Indian businesses value, conserve, restore and wisely use biodiversity, maintain ecosystem services, sustain a healthy planet, and deliver benefits essential for all people. A Memorandum of Cooperation has been signed between the Indian Business and Biodiversity Initiative and the MoEFCC to foster the participation of the private sector in wetlands management and conservation efforts. The India Wetland Coalition (IWC) was launched to enable business partnerships for Wetlands Conservation, addressing the risk of nature loss and building resilience to climate change.

Target 4: Invasive alien species

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]

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 4: Invasive alien species - National Targets

>>> B

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Planned activity

>>> B

Target 4: Invasive alien species - 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

>>> Mapping of invasive alien species of India has been conducted by the National Biodiversity Authority.

Goal 2

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites

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

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - National Targets

>>> A

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Planned activity

>>> A

The Integrated Management Plans of 34 Ramsar Sites are prepared. To expedite the integrated management planning of wetlands across the country, the MoEFCC has published the revised guidelines for the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems, introducing a graded two-stage approach for integrated management plan preparation with the Introduction of a Framework Management Plan. This enables acting on the available information and, simultaneously, builds an evidence base through assessments and stakeholder consultations for developing a comprehensive Integrated Management Plan for the site. Under the Amrit Dharohar Initiative, all Ramsar Sites are envisaged to have an integrated management plan.

Target 7: Sites at risk

Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 3, 4, and 10]

Target 7: Sites at risk - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 7: Sites at risk - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 7: Sites at risk - National Targets

>>> A

Target 7: Sites at risk - Planned activity

>>> B

The Integrated Management Plans are prepared using a diagnostic and adaptive approach, with planning interventions focused on addressing threats to the wetlands.

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

☒ E=No answer

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 8: National wetland inventories - National Targets

>>> A

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Planned activity

>>> A

In February 2022, the MoEFCC released the 'National Decadal Wetlands Change Atlas'. Produced as an outcome of the 'National Wetland Inventory and Assessment - 2nd Cycle' project of the Space Application Center, the report provides data on wetland numbers and extent in 2017-18, and an assessment of change by comparison with the National Wetlands Atlas 2011 which used 2006-7 remote sensing data. This is the first time that a decadal change analysis on wetlands at a national scale has been published by the MoEFCC. In a marked improvement from the previous iteration, the report provides information on wetlands extent within various river basins and bio-geographic zones of India.

Target 9: Wise Use

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

Target 9: Wise Use - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 9: Wise Use - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 9: Wise Use - National Targets

>>> A

Target 9: Wise Use - Planned activity

>>> A

Target 9: Wise Use - Additional Information

>>> The Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, is undertaking basin management, including managing and conserving wetlands of six Indian Rivers, namely, Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Cauveri, Narmada, and Periyar. Similarly, the National Mission on Clean Ganga has integrated the management of wetlands within the River Ganga Basin in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge

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]

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - National Targets

>>> A

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Planned activity

>>> A

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Additional Information

>>> Traditional knowledge is integrated into the wetlands' management plans. Mission Sahbhagita ensures community participation in the planning and implementing management actions that include traditional practices and customary use of wetlands.

Target 11: Wetland functions

Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 2, 12 and 13]

Target 11: Wetland functions - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 11: Wetland functions - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 11: Wetland functions - National Targets

>>> A

Target 11: Wetland functions - Planned activity

>>> A

Target 11: Wetland functions - 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

>>> Rapid Assessment of Wetlands Ecosystem Services and Ecosystem Services Shared Value Assessment has been conducted for major Ramsar Sites.

Target 12: Restoration

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 to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 2, 8, and 11]

Target 12: Restoration - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 12: Restoration - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 12: Restoration - National Targets

>>> A

Target 12: Restoration - Planned activity

>>> B

Target 12: Restoration - Additional Information

>>> Health score-based prioritisation of wetlands for management is in progress. The MoEFCC has introduced the framework management plan, which enables acting on the available information and builds an evidence base through assessments and stakeholder consultations for developing a comprehensive Integrated Management Plan for the site.

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability

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, 14 and 15]

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - National Targets

>>> A

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Planned activity

>>> B

The plans and programmes on key sectors, such as disaster management, tourism, fisheries, and urban development, among others, have partially/completely integrated wetlands conservation in their guidelines and interventions. The Ministry of Tourism supports the establishment of nature tourism at Ramsar Sites. The Government of India's Green India Mission aims towards restoring degraded forests, grasslands, and wetlands; the Smart Cities mission promotes the integration of blue-green infrastructure in urban planning. The Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act 2005 prohibits the conversion of natural coastal wetlands such as mangroves, salt pans, estuaries, and lagoons for aquaculture.

Goal 4

Target 15: Regional Initiatives

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.

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - National Targets

>>> B

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Planned activity

>>> C

The MoEFCC regularly supports participation in the Ramsar Regional Centre East Asia activities. A South Asia Regional Centre is also under development.

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use

Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 21]

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - National Targets

>>> A

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Planned activity

>>> A

While the National CEPA strategy is underway, the MoEFCC has taken several steps towards communication, capacity development, education, participation, and awareness by establishing a network of Wetland Mitra and launching and implementing the Save Wetlands Campaign to make wetlands conservation a people's movement. At wetlands of national and international importance, interpretation centres are being developed to serve as hubs for CEPA activities.

Target 17: Financial and other resources

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]

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 17: Financial and other resources - National Targets

>>> A

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Planned activity

>>> B

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Additional Information

>>> Under the MoEFCC's Amrit Dharohar initiative, convergence for financial support is secured through relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Tourism, which supports establishing nature tourism at the Ramsar Sites.

Target 18: International cooperation

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.

Target 18: International cooperation - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 18: International cooperation - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 18: International cooperation - National Targets

>>> A

Target 18: International cooperation - Planned activity

>>> B

The Government of India closely cooperates with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, UNFCCC, and CITES, among others, and is committed to achieving the goals and targets set out by these conventions. For example, National Biodiversity Targets are being finalised in response to the Global Biodiversity Framework. Additionally, the National OECM guidelines have been issued, and wetlands have been identified as one of the OECM categories (Category 3).

Target 19: Capacity Building

Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and its 4th Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20]

Target 19: Capacity Building - Priority

☒ E=No answer

Target 19: Capacity Building - Resourcing

☒ E=No answer

Target 19: Capacity Building - National Targets

>>> A

Target 19: Capacity Building - Planned activity

>>> B

Target 19: Capacity Building - Additional Information

>>> The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change regularly conducts regional workshops for the conservation and wise use of wetlands to enable the sharing of good practices and challenges of wetland managers and authorities. The MoEFCC has also established a network of knowledge partners who provide technical support to the wetland authorities in managing wetlands. The Knowledge Partners also develop capacity-building modules for stakeholders engaged in different aspects of wetlands management and conduct training workshops.

