

RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

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Section 1: Institutional Information

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

Name of Contracting Party

The completed National Report **must be accompanied by a letter** in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP15 National Report. It can be attached to this question using the "Manage documents" function (blue symbol below) Link to sample National Report Submission Letter: https://www.ramsar.org/document/national-reports-cop15-sampleletter

>>> Iran (Islamic Republic of)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

national_report_submission_.pdf - national report submission

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority >>> Gholamhossein DARZI

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

>>> Mr. Darzi Director General for International Environmental and Sustainable Development Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mailing address >>> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of IRAN, Bldg. 8 West, United Nations St., Imam Khomeini Ave. Tehran. Iran

Telephone >>> Tel: +982161154475 Fax: +982166704176

Email >>> irfocal@yahoo.com

Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title >>> Massoud REZVANIAN RAHAGHI

Mailing address >>> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of IRAN, Bldg. 8 West, Amirabdollahian St., 30 Tir Street, Imam Khomeini Ave. Tehran. Iran

Telephone >>> +9861154460

Email >>> rezvanianmasoud@yahoo.com

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

Name and title >>> Arezoo Ashrafizadeh, Director General of Wetlands Ecosystems Bureau

Name of organisation >>> Department of Environment

Mailing address >>> Pardisan Eco -Park-Hakim Highway-Tehran-Iran

Telephone >>> +982142781706 Email >>> Wetland.bureau@doe.ir

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

Name and title >>> Arezoo Ashrafizadeh, General Manager of Wetlands Ecosystems Bureau

Name of organisation >>> Department of Environment

Mailing address >>> Pardisan Eco -Park-Hakim Highway-Tehran-Iran

Telephone >>> Tel: +982142781706/Fax: +9888233465

Email >>> a.ashrafizadeh@doe.ir

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

Name and title >>> Hossein.z.Rafi, Directing Manager of Ba Aab Group

Name of organisation >>> Ba Aab Group NGO.

Mailing address >>> No.39 Jianpanah Str, Valiasr Ave, 1334838959, Tehran

Telephone >>> +989377989583

Email >>> baabgruop@yahoo.com

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

Name and title >>> Fatemeh Bateni

Name of organization >>> Department of Environment

Mailing address >>> Pardisan Eco -Park-Hakim Highway-Tehran-Iran

Phone >>> +982142781094

Email >>> f.bateni@doe.ir

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)

>>> Enhancing the use of Ecosystem Approach for management of the wetlands

2)

>>> Formal designation of Barm-e-Alvan Wetland as a new Ramsar site in the Convention and update RIS form of Anzali Wetland.

3)

>>> Introducing Gandoman City, Babol City and Kiashahr Port as three Wetland Cities to the Convention.

4)

>>> Developing a guideline for preparing an action plan of community-oriented ecotourism in wetlands

5)

>>> Enforcing the water-right of some important wetlands in the country through assured water resources

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

1)

>>> Climate change, drought and lack of water resources

2)

>>> Barriers set up in Afghanistan against the inflow of water to the Hamoon Transboundry Wetlands.

3)

>>> unilateral coercive measures which adversely affects the international cooperation for conservation of wetlands (some international projects of the country have been suspended).

4)

>>> Different local sectors' priorities.

5)

>>> Entry of non-native and harmful species such as Azolla, Common water hyacinth, crucian carp etc.

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

1)

>>> Application of system dynamic modelling to study the impacts of climate change on wetland ecosystem services.

2)

>>> To designate new Ramsar sites and update RISs.

3)

>>> To enhance transboundary and regional cooperation

4)

>>> Develop national CEPA plan.

5)

>>> Implement community-oriented ecotourism action plan in pilot wetlands.

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

>>> 1) Hold capacity building events and workshops with the support of the developed countries.

2) Provide technical assistance and advisory mission for removing wetlands from montreux list.

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)?

>>> The IOPs are requested to mobilize and provide financial assistance to Iran national wetlands related projects and to facilitate implementation of those projects regardless of the unilateral coercive measures, imposed by few countries.

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.

>>> There is a strong approach versus women empowerment in the country and accordingly almost similar number of women and men are being engaged in the above-mentioned activities. There has been capacity development plans in this regard. For example in some wetland sites the main target group for promoting water friendly livelihoods, are women.

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

>>> In some areas near the wetlands, involvement of women in social activities is lower and awareness raising and enabling activities could improve the balance.

H. Please describe lessons learnt in the context of wetlands and gender equality work in your country. >>> 1. women as half of the society play an important role in promoting the culture of wetland conservation in villages around wetlands.

2. They bring-up new generation with environment and wetland conservation knowledge, if they are aware of the importance of wetlands.

3. Enabling of women through technical and vocational trainings could help them play a brighter role in income generation and livelihood of the households together with related social activities.

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

>>> Women are present in all scopes of the work related to the wetlands and the balance among men and women has improved significantly during the previous decades.

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). >>> In connection with supporting youth participation in Ramsar programs, Iran has identified NGOs run by young people that are active in wetlands and intends to organize them. In this context, the Ramsar Regional Center in Iran organized a program in October 2023 to familiarize some active NGOs with the Ramsar Youth Committee. Iran's wetland NGOs are typically composed of young members. Additionally, the Environment and Natural Resources Students' Club under Tehran University is active. The plan is to activate the Ramsar youth network in Iran by establishing communication between these two groups.

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

>>> The members of Ramsar Convention National Committee including Department of Environment , Conservation of Iranian Wetland project ,RRC-CWA,Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NGOs, Ministry of Energy, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

Target 1

Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14]

1.1 Have any actions been taken since COP14 to integrate wetland protection, wise use and restoration, or wetland benefits, into other national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.1} *Please select only one per square.*

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

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

Target 2

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

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

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

2.1 Additional Information

>>> The TOR for calculating water requiement at basin level has been developed, based on which the studies is under completion for each wetland (some already completed). The Ministry of Energy is, according to the law, is obliged to allocate the water right.

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

>>> This has been accomplished for all Ramsar Sites 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?

☑ C=Partially

2.3 Additional Information

>>> In Lake Urmia and its satellite wetlands sustainable water use management is in place.

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

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

2.5 Additional Information

>>> In lake Urmia, Shadegan and Bakhtegan wetlands, promoting sustainable agriculture with collaboration of Ministry of Agriculture Jihad and the local farmers was carried out in 254 pilot villages, which resulted in 27% water saving at farm level in the basin.

Diversification of livelihood and supporting wetland friendly livelihood was also carried out in 78 pilot villages in the above mentioned wetlands.

2.6 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? {2.8} \square A=Yes

2.6 Additional Information

>>> Most of them are in rural areas.

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? $\{3.1\}$

3.1 Additional Information

Please specify if it was applied for policy formulation or in implementation of good practice. >>> Private sector as a key group of stakeholders are actively involved in wise use practices. Bilateral MoUs/MoAs are examples of tools used for this purpose.

3.2 Has the private sector undertaken any activities or actions for the conservation, wise use, and management of (a) Ramsar Sites or (b) wetlands in general? {3.2} *Please select only one per square.*

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

3.2 Additional information

>>> Some industries and companies undertake activities towards restoration/conservation of wetlands as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility. Examples of this is the private sector involved in planting Mangroves and restoring coral reefs in the south coast of Iran.

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

☑ C=Partially

3.3 Additional information

Please specify the types of incentive measures (loans, tax breaks, or others). >>> In two pilot sites in Zarivar wetland, the farmers who use techniques which contribute to less carbon emission have received solar energy panels as incentives. This has been the same for the housewives who contribute to decreasing carbon emission in different ways at home.

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. >>> Sustainable agriculture (254 pilots) and sustainable livelihoods (78 pilots) remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of 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

>>> According to the Conservation , Restoration and Management of Wetlands Low, We publish a list of invasive species of wetlands, that is updated every two years.

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

4.2 Additional information

>>> According to Article 3 of the Law on Conservation , Restoration and Management of Wetlands of the

Country, it is prohibited to import harmful and non-native plant and animal species to wetlands. We have assessed environmental/ecological risks of a number of aquatic invasive species, and published a protocol to reduce their intrduction to natural ecosystems. Also we have an ongoing research study to assess and control wetlands invasive plants.

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

»» 2

4.3 Additional Information

>>> Since the presence of the invasive species of water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes) in Anzali Wetland, we have carried out appropriate control measures based on physical control to prevent its spread on the wetland, and we have planned to study the possibility of biological control of this invasive species on the wetland surface.

Also, since the presence of crucian carp (Carassius gibelio) as an invasive species in Neor Lake, we have taken appropriate control measures covering physical control and biological control synchronously, in order to prevent the increase of its population in the wetland, which has had relatively successful results.

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

4.4 Additional Information

>>> We have qualitatively assessed control programmes and monitored the crucian carp population which has reduced in Neor Lake, and we plan to assess our control programmes quantitatively in the future.

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? $\{5.1\}$ \square A=Yes

5.1 Additional information

>>> Designation of new Ramsar sites has been considered in National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and Action Plan.

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

>>> All 26 ramsar sites have management plan.

5.3 How many of the Ramsar Sites are actively implementing their management plan? $\{5.4\}$ \square E=# Sites

>>> For all ramsar sites management plan are currently being implemented.

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

☑ E=# Sites

>>> None of them.

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 \square A=Yes

»» 26

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 comprehensive assessment on the effectiveness of the management plans has been conducted. Besides based on the monitoring program as an annex to the Integrated Management Plans, the effectiveness of the wetland management is regularly monitored.

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

5.6 Additional information

>>> All of the Ramsar sites with the integrated management plans (26 Ramsar sites), have a cross-sectoral management structures that is responsible for implementing the plan.

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

☑ E=# Sites

»» 0

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.

>>> We have already provided the Secretariat with the Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) for 26 Sites. And, updating Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) is being done as an ongoing process.

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? $\{7.1\}$ \square A=Yes

7.1 Additional information

If "Yes", please provide the source links or upload the source documents here describing the mechanisms established >>> DoE offices at provincial and local levels are regularly monitoring situation of Ramsar sites and trained guards, NGOs and local community report the situation to the offices. Besides recently voluntary monitoring of wetlands by local people have been conducted in a few pilots which helps keeping the Administrative Authority of any changes in wetlands situation.

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? $\{7.2\}$ \square B=No

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 confirmed list of national wetlands is included in the Bylaw of Preventing Irrecoverable Degradation and Pullotion of Wetlands ratified in 2019. This has been updated in March 2022.

8.2 If your country has an NWI, has it been updated in the last decade [2014-2024]? {8.2} $\ensuremath{\boxtimes}$ A=Yes

8.3 How often is the NWI updated? \square A=Regular intervals \leq 6 years

8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information publicly available? {8.4} \square A=Yes

8.5 Please explain how the NWI data/information is maintained if at all? {8.3} >>> This is an annex of the Parliament Law. Also, this is available in wetland geoportal of the country which is temporarily unavailable due to some technical problems.

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. $\{8.6\}$ \square E=# km2

>>> 46847.68808

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km2) >>> 13695.52174

8.6 Inland Wetlands

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

Tp Permanent freshwater marshes/pools	
Ts Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils	
U Non-forested peatlands	
Va Alpine wetlands	
Vt Tundra wetlands	
W Shrub-dominated wetlands	
Xf Freshwater, tree- dominated wetlands	
Xp Forested peatlands	
Y Freshwater springs; oases.	
Zg Geothermal wetlands	
Zk(b) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2) >>> 32735.9184

8.6 Human-made wetlands total (km2) >>> 416.24794

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

Ecological character is the combination of the ecosystem components, processes and benefits/services that characterize the wetland at a given point in time. *Please select only one per square.*

a) Ramsar Sites	 □ P=Status improved ☑ O=No change □ N=Status deteriorated
b) All wetlands in your country	 □ P=Status improved ☑ O=No change □ N=Status deteriorated

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

Please select only one per square.

a) Marine/coastal	 □ 5=major improvement ☑ 4=improvement □ 3=no change □ 2=deterioration □ 1=major deterioration
b) Inland	 □ 5=major improvement □ 4=improvement ☑ 3=no change □ 2=deterioration □ 1=major deterioration

c)	Huma	an-m	ade	

□ 5=major improvement
 □ 4=improvement
 ☑ 3=no change
 □ 2=deterioration
 □ 1=major deterioration

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

	Ye s
a) Access to data and data acquisition standards	
b) Wetland delineation methods and approaches	
c) Habitat classifications	
d) Standardization in data interpretation methods	
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	
f) Resources	V
g) Relevant skills	V
h) Data collection and mapping	
i) Collaboration	V
j) Others	

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

	Ye s
a) Resources	5
b) Relevant skills	7
c) Data systems and management	5
d) Application of NWI information for decision making (climate, biodiversity and sectoral planning/reporting)	Z
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	
f) Data interpretation and communication	V
g) Collaboration	1
h) Others	

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 Additional information

>>> National Wetland Conservation Strategy and Action Plan has been updated. The National Wetlands Coordination and Management Headquarter, which is a high-level structure for wetlands management, chaired by the Vice President meets twice a year. The bylaw of wetlands law was ratified in the Cabinet.

9.2 Additional information

>>> The bylaw of wetlands law was ratified in the Cabinet in March 2022.

9.3 Additional information

>>> Both Integrated Management Plans and Wetland Water Rights are prepared at basin level. According to IWRM, the environmental water right of some wetlands have been determined and in any dam construction projects it should be taken into consideration as well as EIA. Based on the draft of 7th socioeconomic plan of the country the Ministry of Energy will be assigned to consider the wetlands in Water allocation plan.

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

>>> CEPA and relared expertise and tools are usually a main objective in the wetlands integrated management plans. All stakeholders are involved in CEPA activities and in annual budget planning for wetlands, CEPA has got a separate budget.

9.5 Additional information

>>> A dynamic model for adaptation to the climate change has been developed for wetlands. There has been another study on the Ramsar Sites to investigate how the situation of these wetlands is affected by the Climate Change.

9.7 Additional information

>>> Sustainable agriculture has been conducted in 170 villages in the ecological basin of Urmia and it has been planned to up-scale the achievements and lessons learned in other wetland basins of the country.

9.8 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on: {9.7} *Please select only one per square.*

a) agriculture-wetland interactions	□ C=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) climate change	□ C=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
c) valuation of ecoystem services	□ C=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes

9.8 Additional information

>>> a) Sustainable agricultural techniques have been implemented to reduce water consumption and chemical inputs funded by the Japanese government in 254 villages located in the Urmia lake. The results of this practice is being documented for being applied to other wetlands and incorporated in national policies.
 b) Several studies have been done regarding climate change and wetlands, some of them include:

- Climatic ranking of Ramsar sites based on the climate change conditions of the last 70 years

- Climate ranking of Ramsar sites based on possible climate change conditions in the future period

- Investigating the effects of climate change on Gomishan Lagoon, Miankaleh Peninsula, Gorgan Bay and Lapoo-Zaghmarz Ab-bandan Ramsar sites.

- Compiling the first version of the wetland-climate change road map

c) A guideline is being developed for valuation of ecosystem services. This has been piloted in Kanibarazan wetland and the PES schemes have also been defined and partially implemented for this wetland.

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

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

☑ A=Yes

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? ☑ B=No

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?

☑ B=No

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} \Box A=Yes

10.3 Additional information

>>> Sustainable agriculture practices and wetland-friendly livelihood projects carried out under the joint project of Department of Environment and UNDP are excellent experiences of participation of indigenous people in wetlands management, which have been documented as books, short clips and info-graphics.

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} \square B=No

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

10.5 Additional information

>>> Some of the practices have been documented and published. A few are under preparation.

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? $\{11.1\}$

11.1 Additional information

If "yes" or "partially", please indicate how many Ramsar Sites and their names >>> Identifying and documenting the wetlands benefits and services is a part of the management planning process of wetlands which usually happens in the first participatory workshop by the stakeholders. Besides, vulnerability assessment of wetlands their ecosystem services is examined and the book of Vulnerability assessment of Ramsar sites (Concepts and Methods) was published. The related data has been uploaded on an online platform as well (https://www.vaoiw.ir/).

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

11.2 Additional information

>>> In the framework of a joint project sponsored by the Government of Japan in the ecological zone of Lake Urmia, more than 17,000 volunteer farmers in 254pilot villages have implemented sustainable agricultural techniques in their farms and gardens. In addition, alternative and sustainable livelihood initiatives have also been implemented in this area, and 78 women's micro credit funds have been launched, resulting in the creation of jobs and the involvement of rural women.

11.3 Since COP14 have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to other benefits for human wellbeing been implemented? ☑ A=Yes

11.3 Additional Information

>>> alternative livelihood, ecotourism, sustainable agriculture and other related projects have been undertaken.

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

11.4 Additional information

If "yes" or "partially", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names >>> As the applied approach for preparation of these plans is Ecosystem Approach, socio-economic values are considered as a main part in the whole process. Besides, there are several socio-economic parameters which are assessed in Vulnerability Assessment of Ramsar sites.

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

11.5 Additional information

>>> Wetland cultrual values are included in the baseline studies at the beginning of planning process and are incorporated in the strategic objectives of the Integrated Management Plans too.

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? $\ensuremath{\boxtimes}$ A=Yes

12.1 Additional Information

>>> The National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (NWCSAP) include the national target regarding wetlands. The importance of conservation and restoration of Ramsar sites is emphasized in article 38 of the 6th Socio-Economic plan of the country. The results of Vulnerability Assessment of wetlands also help us indentify the wetlands in high priority for restoration measures.

The other group of wetlands which need more attention are the ones located in the central Iranian plateau.

12.2 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {12.1} $\ensuremath{\boxtimes}$ A=Yes

12.2 Additional information

If "yes", please provide a list of sites, specifying wetland types >>> Of course the Ramsar Sites in the Montreaux list are in the highest priority for restoration measures.

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

☑ Á=Yes

12.3 If applicable provide information on the extent of restored wetland area and types since last COP, in square kilometres

	Restoration planned m2 or km2	Under restoration	Total Restored
Marine/Coastal			
Inland			
Human-made			

12.3 Additional information

Explain/clarify the data/statistics presented in the table above >>> Restoration activities including dredging, alleviation of alien species, follow-ups on allocation water right, mangrove planting resulted in partial restoration of marine and inland wetlands.

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

☑ A=Yes

12.4 Additional Information

If "yes" or "partially", please indicate the progress in implementation >>> A guideline for identification of peat-lands and their impact on carbon sequestration has been developed.

Target 13

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

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

Please select only one per square.

a) Energy	□ D=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) Mining	□ D=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
c) Agriculture	□ D=Planned ☑ B=No □ A=Yes

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

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

☑ D=Planned

13.3 Additional information

>>> EIA is essential for all development projects, particularly the ones which are located in high sensitive ecosystems and wetlands. EIA national committee is in charge of these cases.

Section 3 - Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

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

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

Target 15

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

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

☑ A=Yes

15.1 Additional information

If "yes", please list the Ramsar Regional Initiatives in which your country is actively involved. >>> Ramsar Regional Centre for West and Central Asia is in Iran which works with the countries in the region.

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? $\{15.2\}$ \square B=No

Target 16

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 21].

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

Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below *Please select only one per square.*

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

16.1 Additional information

If "yes" or "in progress" to one or more of the four categories above >>> National CEPA plan is in the final stages. In Annual Budget Planning, 42 wetland sites receive required budget for CEPA.

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

 \blacksquare E=# centres

>>> 15

b) at other wetlands \square E=# centres

»» 17

16.2 Additional information >>> For 15 Ramsar sites, it has been established. For others it has been planned for near future.

16.3 Does the Contracting Party {16.3}

Please select only one per square.

a) ensure stakeholder participation in decision- making on wetland planning and management	□ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?	□ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes

16.3 Additional information

>>> As participation is very much emphasized according to the ecosystem approach, it has been planned using ecosystem-based management in the management planning process of more than 40 wetlands.

16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral national Ramsar/wetlands committee? {16.4} \square A=Yes

16.4 Additional information

>>> National Ramsar Committee is active. Members: DOE Wetlands Restoration and Conservation Office, Conservation of Iranian wetlands project, RRCCW,Coastal wetlands management office, sustainable

development

naional committee, DOE water and soil office, fisheries, ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Oil, Ministry of Road and Housing, Universities, NGOs and Hamoon project on alternative livelihood.

Besides that a National Wetlands Coordination and Management Headquarter has been established which is the highest level committee in the country, chaired by the vice president and meets twice a year.

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

☑ B=No

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

Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Site managers	□ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) other MEA national focal points	□ D=Planned □ C=Partially ☑ B=No □ A=Yes
c) other ministries, departments and agencies	□ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes

16.6 Additional information

>>> There are provincial wetlands management secretariates in each province. The secretariats' experts meet at least 2 times a year.

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

16.7 Additional information

>>> On the World Wetland Day(WWD) each year, an official ceremony is held alongside one of the country's most important wetlands with the presence of local, national and international officials. In addition, other local events in other provinces were held by the General Directorate and the Provincial Bureau of the Environment and local NGOs. They were uploaded in Ramsar website. During the last triannum the national ceremonies were held near Shadegan and Bakhtegan Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar City as the origin of the convention.

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} \Box A=Yes

16.8 Additional information

>>> - Different awareness raising activities such as photo competition, exhibitions, etc. have been conducted.

- Some TV and radio interviews have been done.
- Different documantaires and animations have been produced and published.
- Different books and E-books have been published and widely distributed.

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)? $\{18.5\}$ \square C=Partially

16.9 Additional Information

>>> A national wetland data bank (Geoportal) has been developed but recently it has faced a technical issue which will hopefully be fixed.

Target 17

Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the Convention's fourth Strategic Plan 2016 -

2024 from all sources are made available. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

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

☑ B=No

17.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency ("donor countries")] Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed the development of projects by the agency? {17.4} \square B=No

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	□ Z=Not applicable
assistance agencies of	□ B=No
another country?	☑ A=Yes
b) from non-national or	□ Z=Not applicable
multilateral development	□ B=No
assistance agencies?	☑ A=Yes

17.3 Additional information

for example from which countries or agencies

>>> Iran has received financial support from the Gov. of Japan and UNDP for restoration and conservation of wetlands. Also for Hamoon wetlands we received some fund from EU which has unfortunately been suspended because of sanctions.

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} \Box A=Yes

17.4 Additional information

If "yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities. >>> There is a specific annual budget for wetlands conservation in Iran for implementation of the convention according to its strategic plan.

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? $\{18.1\}$ \square C=Partially

18.1 Additional information

>>> For some of meetings depending on agenda, focal points of other MEAs are invited for the meetings.

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} \Box C=Partially

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

a) UNEP	
b) FAO	
c) UNECE	

d) UNFCCC	
e) Global Environment Facility	
f) UNDP	\checkmark
g) UNESCO	
h) World Health Organization	
i) World Meteorological Organization	
ј) ІТТО	
k) The Convention's IOPs	

18.3 Additional information

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

>>> The Conservation of Iranian Wetland Project which is a joint project of Iran and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in addition to core-funds which are received from UNDP, has for 10 consecutive years sponsored the Japanese government to restore Lake Urumia, Shadegan and Bakhtegan wetlands.

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} \square B=No

18.5 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {18.6} $\ensuremath{\boxtimes}$ A=Yes

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

18.6 Additional information

>>> It has suggested to Afghanistan to cooperatively participate in management of Hamoon Wetlands, but unfortunately they refused.

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 >>> Our country is a member of Convention on the conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) and participates in the related events.

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? $\{19.1\}$ \square B=No

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

19.2 Additional Information

>>> National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and Action plan and regular workshops of Wetlands Management Secretariats are the mechanisms used for capacity development for implementation of the Strategic Plan.

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

>>> In coordination with the Ministry of Education, wetland topics are included in province geography books. And also Issues which are related to the wetlands have been included in relevant universities fields by coordinating with the Ministry of Science.

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

>>> 12

b) at other wetlands ☑ G=More than #

>>> 12

19.4 Additional information

>>> Regular workshops for the exchange of experiences of the country's ecosystem management secretariats have been held for Ramsar sites and other wetlands and Experts from the ecosystem Management Secretariats have periodically participated in these workshops.

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

☑ A=Yes

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

☑ A=High

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Resourcing $\ensuremath{\square}$ A=Good