



RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

Help desk

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 1: Institutional Information

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

Name of Contracting Party

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

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

>>> IRAQ

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[LETTER.pdf](#)

[LETTER.pdf](#)

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

>>> Center for Restoration of Iraqi Marshes & Wetlands (CRIMW)/ Ministry of Water Resources

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

>>> HUSSEIN ALI HUSSEIN/ General Director

Mailing address

>>> engussainalihussain1970@gmail.com

Telephone

>>> 009647810016780

Email

>>> engussainalihussain1970@gmail.com

Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title

>>> HUSSEIN ALI HUSSEIN/ General Director

Mailing address

>>> engussainalihussain1970@gmail.com

Telephone

>>> 009647810016780

Email

>>> engussainalihussain1970@gmail.com

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

Name and title

>>> SAFA TALAL MOHAMMED/ Senior Engineer

Name of organisation

>>> Center for Restoration of Iraqi Marshes & Wetlands (CRIMW)/ Ministry of Water Resources

Mailing address

>>> safatalal1989@yahoo.com

Telephone

>>> 009647714239783

Email

>>> safatalal1989@yahoo.com

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

Name and title

>>> MUNA MOHAMMED ABBAS/ Senior physicist

Name of organisation

>>> Center for Restoration of Iraqi Marshes & Wetlands (CRIMW)

Mailing address

>>> munaaffly@gmail.com

Telephone

>>> 009647707901661

Email

>>> munaaffly@gmail.com

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

Name and title

>>> Jassim Mohammed Al-asadi/ Director of Ghibayish Office

Name of organisation

>>> Nature Iraq organization

Mailing address

>>> Alasadi_im2005@yahoo.com Jassim.alasadi@natureiraq.org

Telephone

>>> 009647723909697

Email

>>> Alasadi_im2005@yahoo.com Jassim.alasadi@natureiraq.org

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)

>>> Increasing the submerged areas of Ramsar sites (Hawizeh Marsh, Central Marshes and Hammar Marsh) after they went through water scarcity conditions and the impact of climate change especially in 2022 through our procedures, the most important of which is linking waterways to deep waterbodies to revive them and exploiting rainwater to submerge the largest possible area, in addition to the re-emergence of species that had previously disappeared in the marsh areas.

2)

>>> Conducting a field survey for Lake Sawa by a specialized technical team from the Ministry of Water Resources within the Sawa Lake Sustainability Project (RED).

3)

>>> The Wildlife Protection Law was amended and submitted to the Shura Council for approval and ratification.

4)

>>> Declaring the city of Al-Jabayish among (24) other cities as a city of wetlands as well as A national strategy for wetlands in Iraq is currently being prepared to re-evaluate previously identified sites based on the current situation in the country in general, such as water scarcity and climate change, and then work to identify priority sites for declaring them as Ramsar sites.

5)

>>> Continuing to hold awareness-raising seminars and workshops targeting all relevant levels, whether residents of those areas or decision-makers.

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

1)

>>> decrease the waterflow from neighboring countries, which affects securing the water needed for the sustainability of Ramsar sites.

2)

>>> The impact of climate change (represented by low rainfall, high temperatures, and increased evaporation rates) that have affected the entire world, especially Iraq, which is considered the most affected country by this phenomenon

3)

>>> Lack of awareness of the importance of wetlands, for local communities

4)

>>> oil extraction projects

5)

>>> Excessive use of groundwater by local communities, leading to its depletion

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

1)

>>> Cooperation with neighboring countries under the supervision of the Ramsar Secretariat in the field of managing, preserving and sustaining Ramsar sites, noting that closed discussion sessions were held with the Water Diplomacy Center and the Iranian side within the Fourth Baghdad International Water Conference.

2)

>>> Updating the management plans for Ramsar sites to meet our obligations under the Convention, while working to re-evaluate the wetland sites in Iraq according to the current environmental reality in order to complete the requirements for declaring them as Ramsar sites under the Convention.

3)

>>> Reviewing the laws in force and enacting laws that provide protection for Ramsar sites.

4)

>>> Developing the efficiency of workers through capacity building programs.

5)

>>> Raising awareness of wetlands importance and the rational use of their resources.

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

>>> - Providing support by the Ramsar Secretariat for the purpose of cooperation with neighboring countries in order to reach an agreement on water sharing.

- Implementing programs to develop the capacities of workers in how to manage wetlands and provide the necessary protection for them.

- Conducting advisory missions by the Ramsar Secretariat to Ramsar sites that are vulnerable to degradation in order to reach optimal solutions to mitigate the effects of water scarcity and climate change, as is the case with Lake Sawa, which suffers from environmental degradation due to excessive depletion of groundwater.

- Adding Arabic to the languages approved in the convention.

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 possibility of obtaining support from international organizations in negotiating with neighboring countries.

- Benefiting from the scientific and technical expertise of these entities in the field of preparing integrated management plans for Ramsar sites and preserving them.

- Developing plans and strategies to deal with natural disasters such as drought and floods.

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.

>>> Equal opportunities are provided for men and women by governmental and non-governmental institutions to participate in the implementation of the Convention by participating in the implementation of the tasks assigned to them, discussing and representing the country in attending the periodic meetings of the Convention, as well as decision-makers.

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

>>> Gender equality is being achieved in various fields by involving them in periodic meetings and in consultation in decision-making.

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

>>> One of the important lessons learned in this field is achieving equality, rights and duties for both men and women, and thus raising the level of efficiency of workers and decision-makers and developing their capabilities within the framework of wetland management and how to develop the plans and strategies necessary for their sustainability.

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

>>> The work is being carried out through the project (Human Resilience and Biodiversity in Mesopotamia) with the support and implementation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and under the supervision of the Center for the Revitalization of Marshlands and Wetlands (CRIMW) to involve and develop action plans related to gender.

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).

>>> Not available , It is planned to start developing action plans to involve youth in implementing the strategic plans of the Convention or in wetland management.

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

>>> The report was prepared in cooperation between the ministries responsible for implementing the Convention (Water Resources, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Environment).

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
e) Integrated coastal zone management plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
f) National forest management plan/strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
g) National policies or measures on agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

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

1.1 Additional information

>>> ---

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}

☒ D=Planned

2.1 Additional Information

>>> ---

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

>>> Periodic environmental monitoring and surveillance operations are carried out by field teams affiliated with our departments in Ramsar sites, which monitor water quality, biodiversity components, and pollution cases. Environmental assessment operations are also included in the projects and studies implemented by our center within its annual plans. In addition, the "Human Resilience and Biodiversity in Mesopotamia" project is currently being implemented in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which aims to contribute to achieving the sustainability of ecosystems and biodiversity in the marshlands region through adaptation to climate change.

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

2.4 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 water allocation and management have been implemented to maintain the environmental functions of wetlands through the Ministry of Water Resources' current work on updating the "Strategic Study for Water and Land Resources" to take into account the changes that have occurred in recent years, most notably climate change, in order to achieve integrated management of water resources in light of environmental, hydrological and climatic changes and to determine the minimum water required to be secured for Ramsar sites.

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

☒ A=Yes

2.5 Additional Information

>>> Annual maintenance of hydraulic systems and installations in Ramsar sites is carried out, in addition to developing projects to implement systems to control and manage the water entering and leaving those sites.

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

☒ D=Planned

2.6 Additional Information

>>> Some projects have already been implemented in a few places in Iraq, have relatively limited capacities.

Target 3

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

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

3.1 Has your country put in place policies, including incentives, guidelines or other instruments to

encourage the private sector to apply the wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in activities and investments related to wetlands? {3.1}

☒ C=Partially

3.1 Additional Information

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

>>> The private sector response in this regard has been positive but till now has not reached the required level.

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

Please select only one per square.

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

3.2 Additional information

>>> organizing Awareness activities to highlight the importance of conserving wetlands and biodiversity.

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).

>>> Activities have been organized in recent years to raise awareness among local populations about the rational use of wetlands and their resources.

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 concerned authorities, represented by the environmental police, are working to prevent illegal fishing activities, but the issue requires strengthening the current laws in order to be able to implement them.

Target 4

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6]

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

☒ A=Yes

4.1 Additional information

>>> Need to be updated.

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

☒ D=Planned

4.2 Additional information

>>> Control of invasive species continues to be effective, especially invasive plants such as water Hyacinth.

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

☒ X=Unknown

4.3 Additional Information

>>> Control of invasive species continues to be effective, especially invasive plants such as water Hyacinth, Which is the most dangerous and affecting the water environment.

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

☒ A=Yes

4.4 Additional Information

>>> Periodically.

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

>>> A national strategy for wetlands in Iraq is currently being prepared to re-evaluate previously identified sites based on the current situation in the country in general, such as water scarcity and climate change, and then work to identify priority sites for declaring them as Ramsar sites.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> E=3

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> E=3

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> E=1

5.2 – 5.4 Additional information

>>> ---

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

☒ A=Yes

>>> E=3

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> E=4

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

☒ E=# Sites

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?

>>> 218 sites have been identified in most of the Iraqi governorates as wetlands, and work is currently underway to re-implement the wetland inventory to evaluate them based on the current reality of water scarcity and the impact of climate change in the country, through the National Wetland Strategy .

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

>>> The inventory was conducted in 2016 and is currently being updated as part of the National Wetlands Strategy Action Plan in Iraq, which is currently being implemented.

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ C=Not updated

8.3 Additional information

>>> It is currently being updated as part of the National Wetlands Strategy Plan in Iraq, which is currently being implemented.

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

☒ A=Yes

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

>>> The list is available by the CRIMW.

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

>>> E= 10.000 KM²

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km ²)
A -- Permanent shallow marine waters	

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

8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km²)
L -- Permanent inland deltas	
M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls	
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks	
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes	
P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes	4911
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	5560

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	

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

8.7 Additional Information

>>> Ramsar sites and wetlands have witnessed a change in their water and environmental reality during the years following 2019 due to the decrease in water imports from upstream countries and the effects of climate change, with 2022 being the worst year and then improving in 2023 and 2024 with an increase in the flooded areas.

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

Please select only one per square.

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

8.8 Additional Information

>>> Ramsar sites and wetlands have witnessed a change in their water and environmental reality during the years following 2019 due to water scarcity and climate change, with 2022 being the worst year and then improving in 2023 and 2024 by increasing the areas submerged in them.

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

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

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

	Ye s
a) Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Relevant skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Data systems and management	<input 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 checked="" 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 strategic study of water and land resources in Iraq prepared by the Ministry of Water Resources includes the policy for water and land management in Iraq until 2035. Wetland conservation and water allocation are part of this policy and our ministry is currently working on updating it to take into account some of the changes that have occurred in the country, the most important of which is climate change.

9.2 Since COP14 have any amendments to existing legislation or policies been made to reflect commitments under the Convention on Wetlands? {9.2}

☒ C=In Progress

9.2 Additional information

>>> committees were formed for that purpose

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 Strategic Study of Water and Land Resources in Iraq, completed in 2014, recognizes the importance of the Iraqi marshes and wetlands as "legitimate users of water" as they are no less important than other sectors such as agriculture, industry, etc., especially since they depend on their natural resources.

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

>>> Included in the strategic study of Water and Land Resources in Iraq (SWRLI).

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

☒ D=Planned

9.5 Additional information

>>> The necessary measures are being taken to mitigate the effects of climate change in coordination between the various ministries and to support relevant projects. Our ministry is currently working on updating them to take into account some of the variables that have occurred in the country, the most important of which is climate change.

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

☒ A=Yes

9.7 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}

☒ C=Partially

9.7 Additional information

>>> A few projects are being implemented, some funded by international organizations, some by the private sector, especially in marsh areas.

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

>>> Universities and research centres have prepared many studies for this purpose over the past three years, and cooperation has been activated between the national administrative authority of the Ramsar Convention and universities to support research through scientific partnership.

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

☒ A=Yes

9.9 Additional information

>>> The nomination application for the city of (Al-Chiba'ash City) was submitted and its announcement was approved among (24) other cities around the world in July 2022.

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

☒ A=Yes

9.10 Additional information

>>> Water scarcity and climate change remain some of the biggest challenges we face in conserving wetlands.

Target 10

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

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

☒ C1= Partially

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

☒ C1= Partially

10.3 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

>>> An annual celebration of World Wetlands Day is held, including a photo exhibition and handicrafts. Conference is held annually, which includes discussion sessions on water management, sustainability of wetlands and water bodies, and activating cooperation and exchange of experiences and knowledge between the parties participating in the conference

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.

>>> Annual meetings and workshops on the conservation of wetlands and the rational use of their resources are held, attended by representatives of local residents in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, where opinions are exchanged, successful decisions are made, and solutions to problems are found. In

addition, the Baghdad International Conference is held annually, which includes discussion sessions on water management, the sustainability of wetlands and water bodies, and the activation of cooperation and the exchange of experiences and knowledge between the parties participating in the conference.

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

>>> Events and activities were held to promote the application and documentation of traditional knowledge and management practices relevant to the wise use of 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}

☒ C1=Partially

11.1 Additional information

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

>>> The specialized departments in the Ministries of Environment and Water Resources are continuously studying the subject and seeking to protect wetlands and record the benefits they provide according to documented statistics.

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

☒ C=Partially

11.2 Additional information

>>> Training courses on traditional professions have been organized targeting the residents of these areas, especially women. These courses focus on preserving traditional practices and continuing them for future generations, such as handicrafts, ceramic products, textiles and knitting products. Work is also being done to organize tourism in order to attract tourists and visitors and increase the economic return for the residents.

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

>>> this is done through implementing projects that serve wetland sites within our center’s plans, in addition to cooperating with international organizations such as the Human Resilience and Biodiversity in Mesopotamia Project in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program, which targets the marshlands in Iraq declared as Ramsar wetland sites.

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 surveys were conducted in all villages on the periphery of Ramsar sites. They focused on the dependency rates on natural resources and services provided by the sites such as cattle and buffalo rearing, fishing, handicrafts and various aspects of the local economy and were included in the planning 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}

☒ A=Yes

11.5 Additional information

>>> The preservation and protection of traditional lifestyles in Ramsar sites has become the official policy of the government in its policy. (At least the three Ramsar sites).

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?

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ A=Yes

12.2 Additional information

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

>>> Work and follow-up is ongoing, especially in the four Ramsar sites

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	5560	2560	3000
Human-made			

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

☒ B=No

12.4 Additional Information

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

>>> Regarding peatlands, the four Ramsar sites currently listed in the convention do not include this type of wetland.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Mining	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
d) Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
e) Urban development	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
g) Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
h) Forestry	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

13.1 Additional Information

>>> All stakeholders at the level of the main sectors are involved in the wetland management process in order to carry out the necessary duties and procedures, each according to their jurisdiction, in order to maintain the sustainability and permanence of these sites.

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

>>> An annual environmental assessment is conducted at the national level by the Ministry of Environment, including wetlands. The assessment is taken into account when reviewing policies.

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 presence of an environmental impact report for any project is one of the requirements for approval and implementation.

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}

☒ D=Planned

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}

☒ D=Planned

Target 16

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 21].

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

16.1 Additional information

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

>>> - Regarding paragraphs (a, b), the annual plans related to this aspect are prepared by the Iraqi Media Network, as it is the entity responsible for preparing and implementing these plans, and it submits them to the national administrative authority of the Ramsar Convention for the purpose of discussing and approving them in order to move towards implementing procedures.

- Regarding paragraphs (c, d), the Center for the Restoration of Marshes and Wetlands, which represents the national administrative authority of the Ramsar Convention, is responsible for developing and implementing the plans for these two paragraphs.

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

>>> E=4

b) at other wetlands

☒ X=Unknown

16.2 Additional information

>>> The centres are managed directly by CRIMW (Each Ramsar Site has a visitor centre)

16.3 Does the Contracting Party {16.3}

Please select only one per square.

a) ensure stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

16.3 Additional information

>>> The Authority members have representations in these or any new locations. The staff of these representations are in contact with the local population.

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

☒ A=Yes

16.4 Additional information

>>> - Membership: Ministry of Water Resources / Center for Restoration of Iraqi Marshes and Wetlands, Ministry

of Health and Environment, Ministry of Higher Education and Science & Technology, Iraqi Media Network.

- The communication and cooperation mechanism between the National Administrative Authority members through its support units:

a) The National scientific and technical communication unit: Ministry of Science and Technology is undertake the unit tasks (responsible on projects implementation, wetlands studies and research). The unit has central committee responsible on cooperation with other Ministries (water resources, Higher Education, Environment, Oil, Relics and Tourism, Industry and Minerals), research centers, civil society organizations, Marshes Research Center, Marine Science Centre, NGOs.

b) Coordination and Control Unit: Ministry of Environment is undertake the unit tasks (responsible on monitoring and implementation of environmental projects within the wetlands). Coordinating Monitoring activities with other ministries, government and nongovernmental institutions.

c) Communication unit for education and awareness raising: Iraqi Media Network is undertake the unit tasks (responsible on educational and awareness programs implementation related the wetlands importance and wise use of natural resources). coordinating with media units in other ministries, government and nongovernmental organizations.

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

>>> There is a committee for the management of the marshes as a world heritage property, headed by the Minister of Water Resources and with membership from each of the ministries (Ministry of Environment, Oil, Antiquities and Tourism, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Planning, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, NGOs, representatives of local populations, local administrations) which holds periodic quarterly meetings to discuss and follow up on the implementation of measures for the conservation and sustainability of the marshland property.

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

{16.6}

Please select only one per square.

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

16.6 Additional information

>>> There is a committee for the management of the marshes as a world heritage property, headed by the Minister of Water Resources and with membership from each of the ministries (Ministry of Environment, Oil, Antiquities and Tourism, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Planning, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, NGOs, representatives of local populations, local administrations) which holds periodic quarterly meetings to discuss and follow up on the implementation of measures for the conservation and sustainability of the marshland property.

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

>>> World Wetlands Day has been celebrated on February 2nd every year since 2011, with publications and folders printed with the Ramsar logo each year, with wide participation from various interested parties.

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

>>> During the past three years, participation in the Baghdad International Fair included the promotion of industries and handicrafts and awareness of the importance of marshes and wetlands.

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}

☒ C=Partially

16.9 Additional Information

>>> - The official website of our Center (CRIMW), in addition to the center's official website via the Facebook application, which publishes news and updates regarding our implemented work.

- Website: www.crim.mowr.gov.iq

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}

☒ Y=Not Relevant

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

☒ A=Yes

17.4 Additional information

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

>>> Updating Management plans for the Ramsar sites in Iraq

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}

☒ C=Partially

18.1 Additional information

>>> The Ministry of Environment is a member of the National Administrative Body of the Ramsar Convention, and most of the National Focal Points for other multilateral environmental agreements are under this Ministry, so coordination and joint work is ongoing between the two sides regarding the management of Ramsar sites.

18.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Convention on Wetland's Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {18.2}

☒ A=Yes

18.2 Additional information

>>> Coordination is carried out with several organizations such as UNEP and UNDP for the purpose of activating joint cooperation and benefiting from technical and scientific expertise for the purpose of implementing projects and preparing the required plans and strategies.

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

a) UNEP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) FAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) UNECE	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) UNFCCC	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Global Environment Facility	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) UNDP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) UNESCO	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ A=Yes

18.5 Additional information

>>> One of the transboundary Ramsar sites is the Hawizeh Marsh, in addition to the fact that most wetlands are transboundary, especially the rivers.

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

18.6 Additional information

>>> Iraq continues to hold meetings and gatherings with neighboring countries in order to activate cooperation towards joint management of transboundary waters and fair sharing of water to ensure that no party is harmed.

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

☒ B=No

18.7 Additional information

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

>>> Monitoring and surveillance are continuing through our field teams to monitor and classify migratory bird species, but to date there has been no participation in regional initiatives in this regard.

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 required training courses in the field of capacity building include:

- Preparing management plans for wetland sites.
- Evaluating and rehabilitating wetland sites.
- Evaluating environmental impact reports for projects proposed for implementation in wetland sites.
- Developing plans and strategies to provide protection for wetlands and address risks.
- Preparing education and awareness programs.

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

>>> Some curricula include information on wetlands, wise water use and biodiversity, especially in primary schools.

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ E=# opportunities

>>> E=10

b) at other wetlands

☒ Y=Not Relevant

19.4 Additional information

>>> Seminars and training workshops were held to raise awareness among wetland site managers of the importance of these sites, how to preserve them, and the best methods for their sustainability and protection of their ecosystems.

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 report helps to identify the required objectives that will help us fulfill our international obligations towards the Convention and to develop the necessary plans and strategies to achieve those objectives.

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

☒ C=Low

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 1: Wetland benefits - National Targets

>>> Highlighting the benefits of wetlands in national/local policy relating to tourism and industry at the national level as well as fisheries at the local level. In the area of water and agriculture, the benefits of wetlands are highlighted in national/local policy.

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

>>> Coordination with the authorities responsible for management and planning to take the benefits of wetlands into consideration when preparing future national development plans.

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Additional Information

>>> The importance of preserving biodiversity, developing the concept of rational use of resources and raising awareness among local people about the importance of wetlands has become greater than it was in the past.

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

☒ B=Medium

Target 2: Water Use - Resourcing

☒ A=Good

Target 2: Water Use - National Targets

>>> Integrated water management plan in the Tigris and Euphrates basin.

Target 2: Water Use - Planned activity

>>> Achieving equitable distribution of water and reducing losses and excessive use of water.

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

>>> Preserving flooded areas, which in turn preserves the sustainability of biodiversity and prevents deaths and losses due to the lack of water and the deterioration of the water situation in the region.

Target 2: Water Use - Additional Information

>>> ---

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

☒ B=Medium

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 3: Public and private sectors - National Targets

>>> Activating cooperation with all relevant parties in order to achieve the rational use of water and participate in achieving the desired goals, each according to his jurisdiction, to ensure the preservation of a healthy and sustainable environment.

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Planned activity

>>> Continuous communication and coordination with the relevant authorities by holding meetings and conducting joint field visits for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the current situation in a manner consistent with the desired objectives.

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

>>> Management and rational use have been improved by developing strategies for the purpose of conserving biodiversity and wetlands.

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Additional Information

>>> ---

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

☒ A=High

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Resourcing

☒ A=Good

Target 4: Invasive alien species - National Targets

>>> Working to remove invasive and harmful species through the use of technologies and cooperation with relevant authorities to implement related projects and studies.

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Planned activity

>>> Identify invasive species and take measures to reduce their negative impacts.

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

>>> Effective identification and removal of invasive species.

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Additional Information

>>> ---

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

☒ C=Limiting

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - National Targets

>>> Establish an effective mechanism for managing Ramsar sites at the national and local levels through cooperation with all relevant sectors.

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Planned activity

>>> Update Ramsar site management plans

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - 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

>>> Communication and coordination mechanisms have been developed between the responsible authorities, especially with regard to the environmental aspect, through holding periodic meetings and preparing the main determinants for implementing the effective management plan.

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Additional Information

>>> ---

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

☒ B=Medium

Target 7: Sites at risk - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 7: Sites at risk - National Targets

>>> Improving water quality to maintain biodiversity in Ramsar sites.

Target 7: Sites at risk - Planned activity

>>> Environmental monitoring (monitoring and controlling discharges, water quality and flooding areas).

Target 7: Sites at risk - 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

>>> Reducing the effects of water scarcity and climate change by implementing a set of measures, most notably linking waterways to deep ponds and exploiting rainwater to flood the largest possible area of Ramsar sites, which has had a positive impact on the environmental reality in those sites.

Target 7: Sites at risk - Additional Information

>>> ---

Goal 3

Target 8: National wetland inventories

National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 21]

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 8: National wetland inventories - National Targets

>>> Re-evaluation of the previously identified wetlands list in Iraq in order to identify problems and constraints resulting from recent conditions at those sites.

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Planned activity

>>> Completing the inventory work for the remaining previously identified sites in all regions of Iraq, with a re-evaluation of the sites that were previously inventoried.

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Outcomes achieved by 2021

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

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

>>> Develop a wetland strategy to re-evaluate and prioritize these sites.

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Additional Information

>>> ---

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

☒ A=High

Target 9: Wise Use - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 9: Wise Use - National Targets

>>> Ensuring good waterflows in terms of quantity and quality in order to maintain and sustain biodiversity in wetland sites.

Target 9: Wise Use - Planned activity

>>> Using modern irrigation methods to rationalize water consumption and taking the necessary measures to reduce water abuse.

Target 9: Wise 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

>>> Protecting living organisms and establishing nature reserves.

Target 9: Wise Use - Additional Information

>>> ---

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

☒ A=High

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Resourcing

☒ A=Good

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - National Targets

>>> Protecting the traditional knowledge and practices of local people and communities relevant to the wise use of wetlands for the implementation of the Convention.

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Planned activity

>>> Support local people by providing requirements to protect traditional knowledge practices and support small businesses.

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - 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 sustainability of wetland resources and biodiversity has been enhanced more than in the past.

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Additional Information

>>> ---

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

☒ B=Medium

Target 11: Wetland functions - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 11: Wetland functions - National Targets

>>> Identify the functions of wetlands and the services they provide.

Target 11: Wetland functions - Planned activity

>>> Implementing awareness and education programmes for various segments of society in cooperation with government sectors and non-governmental organisations.

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

>>> The conservation of wetland resources and the protection of biodiversity have been improved through the establishment of nature reserves.

Target 11: Wetland functions - Additional Information

>>> ---

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

☒ B=Medium

Target 12: Restoration - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 12: Restoration - National Targets

>>> Risk reduction, livelihood development, assessment of potential climate change impacts and implementation of climate change mitigation activities on wetlands

Target 12: Restoration - Planned activity

>>> Implementing projects aimed at reducing risks to wetlands, especially climate change, with the aim of mitigating them, restoring wetlands, protecting biodiversity, and adapting to the effects of risks.

Target 12: Restoration - 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

>>> Programs are planned to monitor the effects of climate change on wetland biodiversity, to demonstrate the impact of natural conditions such as drought and desertification on wetland ecosystems, and to implement environmentally friendly projects to mitigate pollution and reduce risks.

Target 12: Restoration - Additional Information

>>> ---

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

☒ B=Medium

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - National Targets

>>> Improving access measures to develop communities' capacities to use wetland resources sustainably on the basis of rational use

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Planned activity

>>> Implement projects and programmes that enhance the sustainability of wetland ecosystems and contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and the enhancement of livelihoods.

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - 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

>>> Integrate water and wetland conservation and wise use with national poverty reduction strategies, build partnerships between wetland managers, local communities and planners at the national policy level and ensure respect for local perspectives and sustainability strategies for wetlands and biodiversity.

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Additional Information

>>> ---

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

☒ B=Medium

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - National Targets

>>> Ensure minimum water flow to protect wetland ecosystems and biodiversity.

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Planned activity

>>> Joint initiatives, workshops and meetings between regional parties to enhance wetland sustainability programmes and protect biodiversity.

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - 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

>>> Continuous communication and work with neighboring countries to reach a long-term agreement on water sharing and move towards joint management of transboundary waters.

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Additional Information

>>> ---

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

☒ B=Medium

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - National Targets

>>> Raising awareness and education in the field of wetland and biodiversity conservation.

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Planned activity

>>> Awareness programmes, educational documents and capacity building.

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise 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

>>> Improved understanding of the rational use of wetlands and wetland biodiversity in Iraq, organizing educational programs on wetlands and biodiversity conservation for schools and the general public helped build public support and develop the capacity of the general public to conserve wetlands and biodiversity.

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Additional Information

>>> ---

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

☒ B=Medium

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 17: Financial and other resources - National Targets

>>> Implement more projects related to the strategic plan of the convention.

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Planned activity

>>> Project implementation, capacity building, awareness and education programmes.

Target 17: Financial and other resources - 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

>>> Increase individual awareness on wetland conservation, biodiversity and wise use of wetland resources through projects and programmes implemented in Ramsar Sites or other wetlands.

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Additional Information

>>> ---

Target 18: International cooperation

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.

Target 18: International cooperation - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 18: International cooperation - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 18: International cooperation - National Targets

>>> Implementing effective collaborative management of shared wetland systems.

Target 18: International cooperation - Planned activity

>>> Regional initiatives, bilateral and multilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding.

Target 18: International cooperation - 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

>>> Strengthening coordination mechanisms for implementing existing multilateral environmental strategies at the national level.

Target 18: International cooperation - Additional Information

>>> ---

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

☒ A=High

Target 19: Capacity Building - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 19: Capacity Building - National Targets

>>> Assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention.

Target 19: Capacity Building - Planned activity

>>> Training courses, workshops

Target 19: Capacity Building - 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

>>> Experience and knowledge have increased relatively in wetland management, monitoring and assessment of wetland status, communication and promotion of wetlands and their values, scientific and technical knowledge and guidance, and knowledge and technology exchange.

Target 19: Capacity Building - Additional Information

>>> ---

