



## **RAMSAR CONVENTION**

# **Ramsar National Report to COP15**

### **Help desk**

If you have any questions or problems, please contact Secretariat staff at [nationalreports@ramsar.org](mailto: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>

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

## Section 1: Institutional Information

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

### Name of Contracting Party

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

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

>>> Ireland

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Ramsar letter Dec 2024.docx

## Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

### Name of Administrative Authority

>>> National Parks and Wildlife Service

### Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

>>> Dr Andy Bleasdale, Principal Officer, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

### Mailing address

>>> National Parks & Wildlife Service

90 King Street North

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### Telephone

>>> (01) 888 3200

### Email

>>> andy.bleasdale@housing.gov.ie

## Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

### Name and title

>>> Fernando Fernandez Senior Wetland Ecologist at National Parks and Wildlife Service

### Mailing address

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90 King Street North

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### Telephone

>>> (01) 888 3200

### Email

>>> fernando.fernandez@npws.gov.ie

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

### Name and title

>>> Fernando Fernandez Senior Wetland Ecologist at National Parks and Wildlife Service

### Name of organisation

>>> National Parks and Wildlife Service

**Mailing address**

>>> National Parks & Wildlife Service  
90 King Street North  
Dublin 7  
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>>> (01) 888 3200

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>>> fernando.fernandez@npws.gov.ie

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

**Name and title**

>>> Fernando Fernandez Senior Wetland Ecologist at National Parks and Wildlife Service

**Name of organisation**

>>> National Parks and Wildlife Service

**Mailing address**

>>> National Parks & Wildlife Service  
90 King Street North  
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**Telephone**

>>> (01) 888 3200

**Email**

>>> fernando.fernandez@npws.gov.ie

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

**Name and title**

>>> Karin Dubsky Founder & International Coordinator Coastwatch Europe Ireland

**Name of organisation**

>>> Coastwatch Europe Ireland

**Mailing address**

>>> Coastwatch Europe  
Civil & Environmental Engineering  
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>>> +353 1 896 2599/+353 (0)86 811 1684

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>>> kdubsky@tcd.ie

## 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)

>>> The Irish Ramsar Wetland Committee (IRWC) have met regularly (3-4 times per year) since 2021. The IRWC initiated a number of projects to raise awareness of the Ramsar Convention and its principles including the following:

- Produced and published 7 wetland habitat videos.
- Prepared submissions on Wetland related policy documents and promoted world wetlands day with up to 40 events being held nationally each year on World Wetlands day.
- The IRWC held a joint meeting and field trip with the Northern Ireland Ramsar Group and there was agreement to maintain links and to collaborate on cross border sites.
- The IRWC is developing a national Vision for wetlands paper, with the aim of a common approach to the Sustainable Management, protection, restoration and creation of wetlands. There are five strategic areas that require policy objectives and actions to realise this vision. The paper lists a series of objectives underpinning a Vision for wetlands in Ireland in each of these five strategic areas.

2)

>>> Ireland's COP 14 report described Ireland's programme of peatland restoration. Since then, the following achievements have been realised:

- Rehabilitation programme of former commercial peat extraction lands has restored 17,314ha (>52% of its target lands)
- The EU LIFE initiative (<https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie/>) to restore designated western blanket bogs is a results-based agri-environmental payment scheme (RBPS), to develop capacity among farmers, farm advisors, policy-makers and scientists to deliver improved ecosystem services – including water quality, biodiversity and climate regulation- over 820 farmers across 63,000 hectares of Natura 2000 and neighbouring land participated in the RBPS- the learnings informed the development of the Department of Agriculture's results-based Agri Climate Rural Environment Scheme Cooperation Project (ACRES CP). There are now 20,000 farmers participating in the ACRES CP programme (2023-2027), covering an area of 1,160,000 ha, including over 85% of Ireland's blanket bog SACs, with a total budget of €750million.
- The new EU LIFE project (<https://peatlandsandpeople.ie/>) aims to restore a suite of raised bogs in the process of developing a large scale People's Discovery Attraction relating to Peatlands and Climate Change.
- The FarmPEAT Programme is a locally-led, innovative, results-based pilot programme for farmers who manage lands that surround some of Ireland's most intact remaining raised bogs in the midlands of Ireland. Working with local farmers, the project designed and trialled a results based payment scheme, especially adapted to the local landscape to incentivise the delivery of enhanced environmental outcomes. The project also assists the broader community to transition towards a more sustainable use of the peatland resource in the area through a range of educational tools and peer mentoring.
- At the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) there was a call-to-action to open a dialogue on how pan-European collaboration on peatlands between all stakeholders could be maximised through a possible European Peatlands Initiative (EPI). To advance discussions, the Irish government? (National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Irish Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine) drove an exploratory study to understand how a pan-European network could make a positive difference for peatlands. The EPI exploratory study involved over 150 stakeholders from the peatlands sector across Ireland and Europe. The aim of the study was to discover the key needs of Europe's peatlands and to investigate if there were potential benefits that could accrue from cross- country collaboration on peatlands management. The next step towards creating an EPI will be the Preparatory Phase which will build the initial vision for an EPI.

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

<https://www.farmpeat.ie/>

<https://peatlandsandpeople.ie/>

<https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie/>

3)

>>> 3) An ecological company with significant wetlands expertise has developed an online map of all known wetlands in the Republic of Ireland. The Map of Irish Wetlands is a joint project between Wetland Surveys Ireland and Foss Environmental Consulting. The map shows the location and provides further information on all wetland sites in Ireland. On the Map of Irish Wetlands, sites (points) are the basic unit of coverage on the map, with some +13,000 wetland sites shown across the country. Wetland site boundaries are shown in selected counties where targeted wetland surveys have been undertaken or site boundaries exist. The status

of our knowledge of these wetland sites is improving with county wetland surveys being planned/progressed. As new data becomes available on a wetland site, data is updated in the respective county wetland database. The website [www.wetlandsurveys.ie](http://www.wetlandsurveys.ie) hosts the Map of Irish Wetlands and WSI Story Maps.

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

<https://www.wetlandsurveys.ie/>

4)

>>> 4) A Biodiversity Officer Programme, was launched, to drive local action for biodiversity. Biodiversity Officers are now working at city and county level in 25 Local Authorities all across the country, with plans to extend this to all 31 in the coming year. In addition to collecting data, carrying out conservation projects, raising awareness and developing a Local Biodiversity Plan, Biodiversity Officers advise the local authority on biodiversity-related issues and its obligations in relation to the protection of biodiversity. They help Local Authorities to fully integrate biodiversity conservation into all of their policies, plans and actions through training and provision of expert advice. For more information, see <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/our-work-with-others/biodiversity-officer-programme>

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

<http://>

<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/our-work-with-others/biodiversity-officer-programme>

5)

>>> The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) launched the Water Action Plan (WAP) in September 2024. The Water Action Plan (WAP) sets out the measures that are necessary to protect and restore water quality in Ireland under the EU Water Framework Directive up to 2027.

The WAP objectives on flooding reform are that rivers should be able to flow in a natural cycle without artificial interference, with the objective of restoring natural ecosystems and enabling water infrastructure with increased investment, most notably wastewater treatment facilities.

The new EU Nature Restoration Law allows for “the lateral flow of rivers” i.e. restoration of natural flood plains, as a key enabler of restoring climate resilience through restoration of natural ecosystems.

The WAP includes removal of river-blocks preventing salmon and lamprey swimming upstream to spawn. These proposed changes are to be backed by new governance structures involving farmers, communities, NGOs, and industry.

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

<https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/8da54-river-basin-management-plan-2022-2027/>

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

1)

>>> 1. There is no national policy on wetlands (there is also no national policy position for Ireland’s environment within which it might sit). There is, however, a National Peatland Strategy but that doesn’t extend to all wetland types. Wetlands, per se, are not covered by any wetland specific national legislation (but wetlands within the Natura 2000 network, National Parks and National Nature Reserves have protection). The EU Habitats and Birds Directives and EU Water Framework Directive have therefore, all contributed to implementation of the Ramsar objectives in Ireland, but the profile of the Convention tends to be overshadowed and is not necessarily seen as a key driver for wetland conservation.

2)

>>> 2. Changes in land use and associated drainage are the most significant factor affecting wetlands in Ireland. Under the European Communities (EIA) (Agriculture) Regulations 2011 landowners must seek ‘screening’ from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine prior to undertaking certain works, including drainage of agricultural land or infilling of earth (above 15ha and 2ha thresholds respectively on non-designated land), and consent can only be given following a screening process, where it can be shown that wetlands are not affected. These Regulations enacting the EIA Directive in Ireland are insufficiently detailed, poorly implemented and there is failure to monitor and enforce them.

3)

>>> Control and preventing establishment of highly invasive non-native species which affect wetlands is a major problem. Despite the EU Regulation on the prevention and management of invasive alien species (Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014), ongoing failures relating to the continued introduction and spread of new invasive species in Ireland highlight issues relating to the lack of enforcement initially and suitable management regimes (i.e. control and/or eradication) thereafter of non-native species and their introductions.

4)

>>> 4. Resourcing field surveys- baseline and monitoring is challenging due to the large numbers of habitats which await assessment. However, county surveys are being rolled out where funding opportunities allow and the resulting data is being kept up to date nationally.

5)  
>>> 5. Limited capacity to engage with Ramsar actions at the international level e.g. COP meetings.

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

1)  
>>> To continue to raise awareness of wetlands in Ireland through regular meetings of the IRWC which offers the potential to organise workshops, training events, conferences and other initiatives.

2)  
>>> To promote the completion of wetland surveys by the 31 local authorities and their protection through County Development Plans.

3)  
>>> To develop a protocol for the proposal of new Ramsar sites e.g. focus on gaps in current network, focus on wetlands with strong community links and in doing so giving communities due recognition of their work.

4)  
>>> To publish the IRWC National Vision for Wetlands document and to support the ambition and integration of this vision document into national plans and policies and to highlight the ecosystem services and economic benefits of well managed wetlands in national policies and plans.

5)  
>>> To

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

>>> No. Assistance from the Convention Secretariat is always very helpful and response times are fast.

E. Does the Administrative Authority have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs) (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to be developed)?

>>> No.

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.

>>> No specific data available on the gender balance with regards to wetland-related decisions, programmes and research. The EPA which is responsible for environmental monitoring including water (from waterbody to catchment and basin level) has a strategy to promote gender equity in the Irish environmental research arena. The Government's mission is for an Ireland where all women enjoy equality with men and can achieve their full potential, while enjoying a safe and fulfilling life.

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

[Gender strategy Environmental protection Agency](#)

[National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020](#) - The Government recognises gender equality as both an objective and a driver of sustainable development. Gender equality is key to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) encompassed in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which place the fight against poverty and sustainable development on the same agenda for the first time. Up to a quarter of the indicators included in the SDG framework implicitly or explicitly address gender equality. As the National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017 - 2020 has concluded, the Department has begun the development of its successor strategy

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

>>> There are no gender related policies or plans relevant to wetlands.

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 applicable

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

>>> Environmental Protection Agency EPA  
National Park and Wildlife Service NPWS  
National Biodiversity data centre NBDC  
Irish Ramsar Wetland committee IRWC  
Peatland finance

The report has been compiled by the support person for the IRWC (Tara Challoner), with oversight by the National  
Focal Point, Fernando Fernandez

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



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

### 1.1 Additional information

>>> (a) The IRWC are developing a national vision for Irish wetlands, with the aim of a common approach to the Sustainable Management, protection, restoration and creation of wetlands. There are five strategic areas that require policy objectives and actions to realise this vision.

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

Code of Practice Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems - (p)

National Marine Planning Framework - (0)

National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030 - (n)

National Development Plan 2021-2030 - (m)

National Development Plan 2018—2027: - (l)

Public Consultation on New Tourism Policy Framework - (j)

Bord Na Móna Bog Rehabilitation Scheme - (i) Ireland is among the first EU member states to cease use of an indigenous fossil fuel for climate action goals. In December 2023, Bord na Móna (The Turf Board'), founded in 1946 as a state-owned company with a statutory responsibility to produce fuel from Irish peat bogs) – now described as a 'climate solutions and renewable energy company' - announced that peat will no longer be used for power generation at its Power Station.

Ireland Biodiversity Action Plan - (h)

Ireland's national Agri- environment scheme - (g) (2 measures for peatland protection: Low input peat grassland page 64, Appendix 9. ACRES peatland scorecard page 120) Plus the following measures for water protection: Riparian buffer strips or zones, Grassland Riparian buffer strips or zones, Arable Management of intensive grassland next to watercourse, Planting trees in riparian buffer zones, Planting a new hedgerow, Grass margins – Arable and Grassland, Minimum tillage, Tree planting, Low input grassland (results-based), Extensively grazed pasture, Environmental management of arable fallow, Management of intensive grassland next to watercourse, Low emission slurry spreading, Catch crops, Winter bird food plot).

Green Restoration Ireland - (g)

farmPEAT project - (g)

explanatory handbook for conditionality requirements - (g) Explanatory handbook for conditionality requirements (see GAEC 2, GAEC 4 While the implementation of GAEC 2, under Ireland's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, was foreseen for 2024, this has been deferred until January 1, 2025)

Forestry Standards Manual - (f)

The Environmental Requirements for Afforestation document - (f)

Report of the Inter-Departmental Group on National Coastal Change Management Strategy. Prepared jointly by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage & the Office of Public Works October, 2023 - (e)

Ecological Sensitivity Analysis of the Celtic Sea to inform future designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) - A report by the Marine Protected Area Advisory Group for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage June 2024 - (d)

Expanding Ireland's marine protected area network - (d)

National Marine Planning Framework - (d)

Report of the Inter-Departmental Group on National Coastal Change Management Strategy: - (d) Coastal and marine resource management plans.

River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 - Answer to (c)

Uisce Éireann- National Water Resources plan - (C) This plan is driven by policy and The European Union Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC) and the subsequent River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), are referenced by the Framework Plan as they set the objectives for managing the water bodies in our natural environment from abstraction to final discharge

## Target 2

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

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

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

☒ A=Yes

### 2.1 Additional Information

>>> Yes these guidelines have in 2024 been disseminated to all members of the Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee (representatives from 18 agencies/departments/NGOs/universities) and to the research lead on the 'WaterFutures Project' (2020-2026), which is a multi-disciplinary research programme funded by the Environmental Protection Agency that aims to address the future responses of water, ecology, hydromorphology to agents of change in Ireland.

Members of the IRWC have presented talks on the management of water in the sustainability of wetlands to geologists, agriculturalists and planning authorities.

2.2 Have assessments of environmental flow been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts on the

ecological character of wetlands? {2.2}

☒ C=Partially

## 2.2 Additional Information

>>> Many of the major water abstraction programmes in Ireland are taken from lakes and rivers that have been designated as (SACs) under the EU Habitats Directive or (SPAs) under the EU Birds Directive. Plans or projects that have the potential to impact upon the conservation objectives of these Natura 2000 site by way of affecting the favourable conservation condition of the listed habitats or species, must undergo an Appropriate Assessment, as outlined in Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive.

As an example, the designated Ramsar site and SAC site Pollardstown Fen, is on the shoulder of a large glacial outwash plain where springs are the source of the wetland water. A quantitative risk assessment of dependent ecosystems identified the attached GWB as 'probably At Risk' due to significant dewatering 5 km away during the construction of the M7 motorway and continued drainage via drains located along the motorway embankments. This fen provides an important, low resilient habitat to the key species mollusc *Vertigo geyeri*. Analysis of the hydrology of the Pollardstown Fen system defined a specific threshold water level below which the sensitive mollusc habitat could not be maintained. Water level below this threshold level serves as an alarm that damage is being done, but does not necessarily cause instantaneous extinction of the identified species. The risk due to construction dewatering has now passed and the residual risk due to on-going drainage is being evaluated. If groundwater levels continue to decline, the health of the mollusc species would be in threat.

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

[Water Abstraction: Interactions with the Water Framework Directive & Groundwater Directive and Implications for the Status of Ireland's Waters](#)

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

☒ A=Yes

## 2.3 Additional Information

>>> All Ramsar sites in Ireland are also designated as SACs under the EC Habitats Directive. Certain activities restricted within Natura 2000 sites can only be carried out with the consent of the government Minister. These are called Activities requiring consent (ARCs) - The particular ARC or ARCs attached to a European Site depends on the habitats and/or species for which the site is protected. Activities include for example restrictions on fertiliser/ pesticide usage and drainage.

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

☒ B=No

2.5 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

>>> Best practice in raised bog restoration in Ireland  
FarmPEAT Project developed a locally-led, innovative, results-based farm scheme for farmers who manage lands that surround some of Ireland's finest remaining raised bogs.

Turloughs: Hydrology, Ecology and Conservation

A Framework for the Assessment of Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems under the Water Framework Directive

Water Framework Directive: development of a methodology for the characterisation of a karstic groundwater body with particular emphasis on the linkage with associated ecosystems such as turlough ecosystems

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

[Water Framework Directive: Development of a methodology for the characterisation of a karstic groundwater body with particular emphasis on the linkage with associated ecosystems such as turlough ecosystems](#)

[A Framework for the Assessment of Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems under the Water Framework Directive](#)

[Turloughs: Hydrology, Ecology and Conservation](#)

FarmPEAT Project - A locally led results based agri environment scheme which rewards farmers for sensitive management of wet grassland surrounding some of Irelands most intact raised bog habitats

Best practice in raised bog restoration in Ireland - This includes hydrological requirements

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

☒ A=Yes

## 2.6 Additional Information

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

wetlands and wastewater

## 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.

>>> Policy formulation

- Peatland Finance Ireland (PFI) is developing a Peatland Standard to standardise the contributions made by investing in peatland restoration to carbon storage and sequestration. About — Peatland Finance Ireland

- Research 441: Irish Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments (INCASE) | Environmental Protection Agency (epa.ie)

- Valuing and Accounting for Nature in Ireland: Embedding the Natural Capital Approach and Natural Capital Accounting in Irish Policy for the Benefit of People and Planet research\_27\_nca\_briefing.pdf (nesc.ie)

- High-Level Recommendations for Funding Nature Restoration in Ireland 94066f\_573327d57bbb4cc4ac53ce781c73d813.pdf (naturalcapitalireland.com)

Implementation of Good practice

- Waterways-Ireland\_10-Year-Plan.pdf (waterwaysireland.org)

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

Reimagining Our Waterways 10-Year Plan - Implementation of Good practice

High-Level Recommendations for Funding Nature Restoration in Ireland - Policy formulation

Valuing and Accounting for Nature in Ireland: Embedding the Natural Capital Approach and Natural Capital Accounting in Irish Policy for the Benefit of People and Planet - Policy formulation

Irish Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments (INCASE) - Policy formulation. This EPA Research Report provides insights into the development of natural capital accounts at the catchment scale in Ireland. It aims to provide a comprehensive view of the stocks of natural capital assets and the flows of services, along with guidance on how to scale-up the process to national level.

Peatland finance Ireland - Practical policy formulation. They are developing a national and catchment scale financing system for peatland restoration in Ireland.

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

*Please select only one per square.*

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

### 3.2 Additional information

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

<http://>

[https://www.westernpeople.ie/news/mayo-project-is-the-largest-of-its-kind-in-the-country\\_arid-36013.html](https://www.westernpeople.ie/news/mayo-project-is-the-largest-of-its-kind-in-the-country_arid-36013.html) - A retired business purchased over 700 ha of blanket bog and is restoring it

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

☒ D=Planned

### 3.3 Additional information

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

>>> Incentive measures: Peatland Finance Ireland (PFI) is an entity working with private and public partners to develop appropriate incentives for the restoration of peatlands, through the development of a Peatland Standard for Ireland which provides a process to quantify ecosystem improvements from peatland restoration projects in Ireland. This process follows voluntary market principles and is designed to provide robust, high-quality credits to provide a return for a project's capital and management requirements. The Peatland Standard for Ireland is currently in an internal consultation phase with PFI's Steering and Advisory Groups. Following the internal consultation, the Peatland Standard will be released for public consultation in Q4 2024. We can provide links to these documents once they are launched for public consultation.

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.

>>> From 2023 onwards, Eligible Hectare is the basis of payment for all area-based payments for EU based farming schemes. Prior to 2023, land was only eligible for payments on the part of that area on which agricultural activities were taking place. The new rules on eligibility specify that, eligibility will also be maintained because of the undertaking of activities, for environmental, biodiversity or climate related reasons. Beneficial features which help deliver benefits in terms of biodiversity, habitat retention, space for nature, and carbon sequestration may occupy up to 50% of the parcel without affecting the eligibility of the parcel, provided they do not impact the agricultural activity that must be taking place in the parcel. These features include as examples riparian buffer zones, raised bog, blanket bog, marsh, ponds <2ha in size.

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

[A Guide to Land Eligibility](#)

## 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

>>> The National Biodiversity Data Centre provides national coordination and management of information on Ireland's non-native invasive species, and supports the National Parks and Wildlife Service with the implementation and reporting on the EU Invasive Alien Regulations (1143/2014). Central to this work is maintaining Ireland's National Invasive Species Database to collate detailed information on the status and trends on Ireland's non-native invasive alien species. This includes operating an Early Warning Alert System in partnership with key agencies and partners. The ultimate aim of this network is to support decision-making to mitigate the spread and impact of invasive species in Ireland.

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 4.2 Additional information

>>> Three Invasive Alien Species (IAS) pathway action plans have been developed in Ireland for the following pathways:

- Angling
- Recreational boating and watercraft
- Movement of soil and spoil

The purpose of Pathway Action Plans (PAPs) is to prevent or minimize the risk posed by the pathways using measures such as raising public awareness and setting out actions to prevent unintentional introductions by minimizing the contamination of goods, commodities, vehicles, and equipment by invasive alien species, and ensuring appropriate border checks.

A key focus of the pathway action plans is to protect waterbodies and water quality from the effects of invasive species colonisation

<https://invasives.ie/biosecurity/pathway-action-plans/>

The Invasive Species Ireland initiative produced biosecurity guidance in the form of Codes of Practice for key activities that are known to facilitate the introduction of invasive species to Ireland and Northern Ireland.

These include horticulture, aquaculture and water users and marina operators.

Codes of Practice - Invasives.ie

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

Actions on invasives - 'Actions on Invasives' is an online mapping system that allows everyone to log and map the actions they have taken on invasive alien species, providing public recognition of your efforts and facilitating coordination.

The Natura Communities website is a hub for accessing information about blanket bogs in Ireland, why they should be conserved and protected, and what local communities can do to support this work - Over the past three years over €2.7m has been invested in Rhododendron control across 8 Natura 2000 sites in three counties. It is hoped to expand Natura Communities to cover all large Natura 2000 sites over the coming three years.

<http://>

Codes of practice- Invasive species

The Invasive Species Ireland initiative - Invasive species Northern Ireland

Ireland's pathway action plans

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

☒ G=More than #

>>> 26

#### 4.3 Additional Information

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

Invasive Species Management The Management of Alien Invasive Aquatic Weed species - Inland fisheries Ireland

Life Raft Objectives Protecting native species

actions on invasives

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

☒ X=Unknown

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

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

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

#### Target 5

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

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

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

☒ D=Planned

#### 5.1 Additional information

>>> This is a priority for the Irish Ramsar Wetland Committee over the next triennium.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 3

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 3

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

☒ X=Unknown

5.2 – 5.4 Additional information

>>> A number of Ramsar sites benefit from conservation management actions at local, site or catchment level. Examples are LAWPRO, Wild Atlantic Nature Life Project, Bull Island UNESCO Reserve, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve. The 3 sites with formal management plans (Clara Bog, Raheenmore Bog and Mongan Bog) are all SACs and have full Restoration Plans. Most sites all have site specific conservation objectives which give precise targets to ensure they are restored or maintained to favourable conservation status.

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

If “yes”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

If “partially”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

If “planned”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

☒ C=Partially

>>> 3

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.

>>> Most Ramsar sites are SAC, SPA or both. The habitats and species of conservation interest (SCI's) within these sites are monitoring and assessed as part of the Irish Governments Habitats Directive and Birds Directive reporting obligations. The Article 17 and Article 12 Reports are available on the NPWS website. Most sites have site specific conservation objectives which give comprehensive details on attributes and targets needed to maintain or restore the sites to favourable conservation status.

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

<https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports>

<https://www.npws.ie/status-and-trends-ireland%E2%80%99s-bird-species-%E2%80%93-article-12-reporting>

<https://www.npws.ie/>

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

☒ X=Unknown

5.6 Additional information

>>> A number of Ramsar sites benefit from conservation management actions including cross sectoral involvement at various levels. Examples include Bull Island UNESCO Reserve, The Slieve Bloom Mountains, the Owenduff Catchment :

Coillte (Ireland's state forestry company) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have agreed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to increase their collaboration on the delivery of biodiversity projects. The MoU establishes a framework for the two agencies to work together on the delivery of nature conservation projects and the management of the respective estates of both organisations.

The first project that the two bodies will work together on under the MoU is the Slieve Blooms Nature Project, which will target conservation measures for the Hen harrier.

This will include the co-design and co-delivery of conservations measures through agreed site action plans, with a focus on protected habitats such as raised and blanket bog; heaths and wetlands; and lakes and rivers. Under the EU LIFE project Wild Atlantic Nature, parts of the Owenduff catchment are being restored via a community project to control the invasive species *Rhododendron ponticum*.

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

☒ E=# Sites

## 5.7 Additional information

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

>>> All 45 Ramsar designated sites in Ireland.

### Target 7

Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed {2.6.}.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 3, 4 and 10]

7.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {7.1}

☒ A=Yes

#### 7.1 Additional information

If “Yes”, please provide the source links or upload the source documents here describing the mechanisms established

>>> There is no formal mechanism specific to Ramsar sites but as all Ramsar sites are also Natura 2000 sites.

They have inspection regimes carried out by staff of NPWS, which will pick up on negative impacts. Also, members of the public can/do contact local NPWS staff to report potentially negative activities.

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

☒ B=No

## Section 3 - Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

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

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

### Target 8

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

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

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

☒ C=In Progress

#### 8.1 Additional information

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

>>> Unknown. Surveys are being progressed at county level by the local authority as funding allows. There are hundreds of sites within each jurisdiction to be surveyed. It is envisioned that the completion of these surveys would take several years.

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

>>> Wetland Surveys Ireland and Foss Environmental have compiled a Map of Irish Wetlands (MIW) and this is freely available as a web service on the ESRI online platform that can be added to GIS projects (urls below).

The map is freely available and continues to be updated regularly. The map displays an indicative map of 13,600 wetlands sites in Ireland, showing both “potential” wetland sites (un-surveyed, with limited information) and confirmed wetland sites which have been the subject of a wetland field survey(s).

They have made the wetland data available through ESRI ArcGIS online (AGOL) and their living atlas as an ArcGIS FeatureServer Layer. From there it can be imported as a layer into a desktop GIS project.

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

<http://www.wetlandsurveys.ie>

<http://www.fossenvironmental.com>

[Wetland Map of Ireland Point dataset](#) - Further information on the dataset is available at

[Wetland Map of Ireland Polygon dataset](#)

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?



☒ A=Regular intervals  $\leq$  6 years

### 8.3 Additional information

>>> The NWI is updated throughout each year according to new sites or counties being surveyed.

### 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 information is maintained regularly by Wetlands Surveys Ireland on a voluntary basis.

8.6 Based on the information in NWI, if available, please provide the total area in square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>) 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=# km<sup>2</sup>

>>> 13,310

### 8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km <sup>2</sup> )
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	270.83
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	489.33
Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs	
H -- Intertidal marshes	53.29
I -- Intertidal forested wetlands	
J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons	20.99
K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons	
Zk(a) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	

### 8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km<sup>2</sup>)

>>> 834

### 8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km <sup>2</sup> )
L -- Permanent inland deltas	

M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls	72.06
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks	
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes	1138.73
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	247.53
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils	
U -- Non-forested peatlands	11017.55
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)

>>> 12476

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

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

*Please select only one per square.*

--	--

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

### 8.7 Additional Information

>>> This is unknown. However water quality in Ireland is not improving and nutrient levels remain too high in a large proportion of water bodies. The biological health of our rivers and our lakes have shown small net declines. While some improvements are being made these are being offset by declines elsewhere.

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

Water quality in Ireland 2023

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

*Please select only one per square.*

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

### 8.8 Additional Information

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

<https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/state-of-the-environment/EPA-SOE-Report-2024-BOOK-LOWRES-FINALfor-WEB.pdf>

### 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}

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

i) Collaboration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Others	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

## Target 9

The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone {1.3.}.

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

9.1 Is a national wetland policy (or equivalent instrument) that promotes the wise use of wetlands in place? {9.1}

☒ C=In Preparation

### 9.1 Additional information

>>> The Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee are drafting a national Vision for Wetlands paper for the sustainable management and protection of wetlands in Ireland. This document was originally designed as a policy document, but government departments would not approve a policy document. It was agreed that changing it to a vision document would make it easier for all IRWC members to help ensure that the recommended actions are considered within existing and future policy and strategic decisions, within their individual organisations.

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

☒ A=Yes

### 9.2 Additional information

>>> • Irelands 4th biodiversity action plan published in 2024, includes as its targets:

By 2025, nature-based solutions are contributing to national climate ambitions through the promotion of freshwater, transitional, coastal, and marine nature-based solutions (such as coastal, and wetland restoration and restoring 'blue carbon' ecosystems') in national, regional, and local rural and urban programmes.

By 2027, optimised benefits in flood risk management planning and drainage schemes are in place. This will ensure that Flood Risk Management planning minimises loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services through policies to promote more catchment-wide and non-structural flood risk management measures.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/93973-irelands-4th-national-biodiversity-action-plan-20232030/>

• The Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24) is the third annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan. The KPIs for to deliver abatement in Land use, land use change and forestry are by 2025 to have 33,000 ha of peatlands rehabilitated as part of Bord na Móna EDRRS and LIFE People and Peatlands and by 2030 to have 35,900 ha of peatlands rehabilitated with an additional 30,000 ha exploited peat rehabilitated.

This represents an increase of 20,900 ha from the 2021 Climate action Plan.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/79659-climate-action-plan-2024/>

EU Nature restoration Law 2024

Ireland is currently developing its Nature restoration plan, and is due to be submitted to the EU Commission by 1st September 2026. This will include specific targets for wetland restoration.

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

<https://www.npws.ie/news/minister-noonan-announces-next-step-development-ireland%E2%80%99s-nature-restoration-plan> - Nature restoration plan

<http://https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/79659-climate-action-plan-2024/>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/93973-irelands-4th-national-biodiversity-action-plan-20232030/>

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}

☒ D=Planned

#### 9.3 Additional information

>>> • The Water Action Plan 2024: A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland sets out the measures that are necessary to protect and restore water quality in Ireland. The overall aim of the plan is to ensure that our natural waters are sustainably managed and that freshwater resources are protected so as to maintain and improve Ireland's water environment. The integrated approach reflected throughout this draft river basin management plan aligns with the Framework for Integrated Land and Landscape Management (FILLM) proposed by An Fóram Uisce. FILLM builds on and is a reframing of the Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) approach used in water resources management. However, it broadens it to include the other components of our natural environment, while retaining catchments as the appropriate landscape units. The development of the 46 Catchment Management Work Plans will reflect this approach.

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

<http://https://thewaterforum.ie/app/uploads/2021/03/TWF-FILLM-Report-Feb21-v9WEB.pdf>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/8da54-river-basin-management-plan-2022-2027/>

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

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

<https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/8da54-river-basin-management-plan-2022-2027/>

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.5 Additional information

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

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2bcf3-national-peatlands-strategy-mid-term-review-and-implementation-plan/>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/79659-climate-action-plan-2024/>

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.6 Additional Information

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

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2bcf3-national-peatlands-strategy-mid-term-review-and-implementation-plan/>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/79659-climate-action-plan-2024/>

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.7 Additional information

>>> • The FarmPEAT Programme is a locally led, innovative, results-based pilot programme for farmers who manage lands that surround some of Ireland's finest remaining raised bogs in the midlands of Ireland. The results-based programme rewards farmers for improved management of habitats on peat soils. It is hoped that this programme will form a basis for future agri-environmental schemes in these areas. As such it presents an opportunity for farmers to be involved in developing policy that could provide long term environmental and economic benefits to their communities into the future.

<https://www.farmpeat.ie/>

• The Breeding Waders EIP project aims to secure existing Breeding Wader populations and support population recovery through landscape management and policy development.

This EIP-Agri project is a €25 million nationwide project. Measures include habitat Enhancement &/ Restoration, and the development of a robust range of habitat and species actions for participating landowners. These payments are also for collaborative, landscape payments which reward groups of landowners for working together for waders.

Breeding Waders EIP

• ACRES Co-operation is a high ambition stream within Ireland's national agri-environment scheme. It is available to 20,000 farmers in eight cooperation zones of high nature value farmland. It comprises a locally adapted results-based approach to supporting the delivery of ecological services by farmers many of these farms in the west of Ireland on peat soils.

ACRES CP – A results-based ecological initiative working with farmers ([acresireland.ie](http://acresireland.ie))

• Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE Integrated Project (IP) is a nine-year environmental project (2021-2029) led by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It aims to improve Ireland's performance in conserving habitats, and in particular to improve the conservation status in the Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) Network of blanket bog, a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive. The primary focus is on 35 Natura 2000 sites in the northwest of Ireland. The project works with farmers and local communities to conserve and improve the quality of blanket bogs and associated habitats, and the ecosystem services they provide including clean water, carbon storage and biodiversity.

LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature - Wild Atlantic Nature

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

<https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie/wild-atlantic-nature/>

<https://acresireland.ie/>

<https://breedingwaders.ie/#:~:text=The%20Breeding%20Waders%20EIP%20project%20aims%20to%20secure>

<https://www.farmpeat.ie/>

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

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

[Valuing Ireland's Blue Ecosystem Services](#)

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359767203\\_Towards\\_the\\_Quantification\\_of\\_Blanket\\_Bog\\_Ecosystem\\_Services\\_to\\_Water](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359767203_Towards_the_Quantification_of_Blanket_Bog_Ecosystem_Services_to_Water) - (c)

<https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/water/research-239-valuing-irelands-coastal-marine-and-estuarine-ecosystem-services.php> - (c)

<https://peatlandfinance.ie/pfi-2024> - (c)

<https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/climate-change/research-453-hydropredict-ensemble-river-flow-scenarios-for-climate-change-adaptation.php> - (b)

<https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/biodiversity/research-236-network-monitoring-rewetted-and-restored-peatlandsorganic-soils-for-climate-and-biodiversity-benefits-neros.php> - (b)

<https://irishriverproject.com/2021/11/11/neros-peatland-project-complete/> - (b)

[Drainage status of grassland peat soils in Ireland: Extent, efficacy and implications for GHG emissions and rewetting efforts](#) - (a)

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}

☒ D=Planned

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

>>> • Tóchar is a three-year wetlands restoration project, co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund Programme. The landscape of the midlands region has changed dramatically due to the extraction of peat from its raised bogs. Utilising the landscape as a resource for extraction, for the electricity supply network, domestic fuels, and horticultural peat, provided jobs and stability for communities in the area. However, this created a loss of landscape and its ecosystem benefits for the region, with an ongoing legacy for its people, climate and nature.

The transitioning of landscapes by natural vegetation succession and dynamic processes, large-scale rehabilitation techniques, and conservation activities is ongoing in the region.

- Legacy4LIFE was a 2-year programme which aimed to develop community-based supports for Ireland's natural environment, with a focus on biodiversity enhancement, environmental protection and climate mitigation. The Legacy4LIFE programme consisted of three distinct projects, one of these was Promoting Ponds as Reservoirs of Biodiversity. The outputs of this are linked below.

Ponds for Biodiversity Resources | An Taisce - The National Trust For Ireland

- County wetlands surveys

Wetland Surveys Ireland and Foss Environmental have produced a freely available online resource which displays an indicative map of 13,600 wetlands sites in Ireland, showing both "potential" wetland sites (unsurveyed, with limited information) and confirmed wetland sites which have been the subject of a wetland field survey(s).

The majority of counties in Ireland have completed Phase 1 mapping of wetlands – a desk top exercise showing potential sites.

Some counties have also completed Phase II (wetland field surveys) for the priority wetland sites in their counties. Phase II surveys continue to be commissioned by biodiversity officers employed by county local authorities, and it is planned for every county to have Phase II surveys completed.

MIW Intro — Wetland Surveys

- Peatlands Climate Action Scheme the Peatlands Climate Action Scheme encompasses the restoration and rehabilitation of approximately 33,000 hectares of peatlands that were previously harvested to generate electricity. To date, approximately 14,344 hectares have been rehabilitated across 30 bogs with plans approved for a further five sites, with four undergoing approvals. Works are expected to be completed by mid-2026. The Scheme is funded with €108 million from the EU National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

[www.bnmecas.ie](http://www.bnmecas.ie)

- Bord na Móna's LIFE IP Peatlands and People, which is enabling the restoration and rehabilitation of raised bogs in the midlands; <https://peatlandsandpeople.ie/>

- Mayo County Council's LIFE Lough Carra, which is collaborating with multiple stakeholders to restore the marl lake to favourable condition.

<https://www.loughcarralife.ie/>

- University Santiago de Compostela's LIFE INSULAR project, which aims to develop a transnational strategy for the restoration of coastal fixed dunes and dry heaths in five Atlantic Ocean islands

<https://www.lifeinsular.eu/eng/>

NPWS raised bog restoration programme: over 5,000 hectares of raised bogs have been restored since 2018.

The Community wetlands forum facilitates community groups in bog restoration projects

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

<https://communitywetlandsforum.ie/waterlands/>

<https://www.lifeinsular.eu/eng/>

<https://www.loughcarralife.ie/>

<https://peatlandsandpeople.ie/>

[https://www.wetlandsurveys.ie/miw-](https://www.wetlandsurveys.ie/miw-intro#:~:text=MIW%20Intro%20%E2%80%94%20Wetland%20Surveys.%20Visit%20our%20interactive)

[intro#:~:text=MIW%20Intro%20%E2%80%94%20Wetland%20Surveys.%20Visit%20our%20interactive](https://www.wetlandsurveys.ie/miw-intro#:~:text=MIW%20Intro%20%E2%80%94%20Wetland%20Surveys.%20Visit%20our%20interactive)

<https://www.antisce.org/ponds-for-biodiversity-resources>

## 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?

☒ Y=Not relevant

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

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

<https://abogslife.com/about/>

[Assigning value to cultural ecosystem services: The significance of memory and imagination in the conservation of Irish peatlands - ScienceDirect](#)

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.

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

<https://communitywetlandsforum.ie/#:~:text=The%20main%20aim%20of%20the%20Community%20Wetlands%20Forum>

<https://www.npws.ie/peatlands-and-turf-cutting/peatlands-council/national-peatlands-strategy#:~:text=The%20National%20Peatlands%20Strategy%20Mid%20E2%80%93Term%20Review%20and%20Implementation>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/93973-irelands-4th-national-biodiversity-action-plan-20232030/>

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

☒ B=No

### 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

>>> • An assessment of marine habitats carbon sequestration is provided in the report linked below. Ireland is estimated to store at least 9.2 Mt of carbon in its saltmarsh and seagrass habitats, which cover an estimated minimum area of 162 km<sup>2</sup>. Estimates of carbon stocks in potential blue carbon ecosystems such as macroalgae beds are hampered by lack of data on extent, productivity and actual contribution.

Blue Carbon in Irish Waters and Coastal Habitats\_Marine Institute Report\_May 2021.pdf

• The INCASE project - Irish Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments - applied the natural capital approach in Ireland at catchment level for the first time to see if we can enable more sustainable, data-driven decisions by applying the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting-Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EA) to map, assess, measure and account for the benefits that nature provides to people. The final report from this project is here:

Research 441: Irish Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments (INCASE) | Environmental Protection Agency (epa.ie)



In a report by the Biodiversity Unit of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG 2008) the biodiversity value of wetlands in Ireland was estimated to be worth €385 million per year to the Irish economy. In addition a further proportion of the €330 million assigned by this study to the economic value of the nature and eco-tourism value of all Irish habitats can be assigned to wetlands.

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

[The Economic and Social Aspects of Biodiversity Benefits and Costs of Biodiversity in Ireland](#)

[Research 441: Irish Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments \(INCASE\) | Environmental Protection Agency \(epa.ie\)](#)

[Blue Carbon in Irish Waters and Coastal Habitats\\_Marine Institute Report\\_May 2021.pdf](#)

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

☒ Y=Not Relevant

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

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

<https://communitywetlandsforum.ie/>

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

☒ C=Partially

### 11.4 Additional information

If "yes" or "partially", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names

>>> Ramsar site 415 Clara Bog.

Ramsar site 336 Owenduff catchment.

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

<https://www.npws.ie/peatlands-and-turf-cutting/peatlands-and-natura-community-engagement-scheme-2025> - The Scheme aims to encourage communities, local organisations and other interested parties to become involved in the enhancement of their natural surrounding areas and to raise awareness.

[The peatland restoration project](#)

[Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE IP](#) - •Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE IP, a 9-year EU-funded LIFE Integrated Project, works with farmers, local communities and land owners to add value to the wide range of services provided from our Special Area of Conservation (SAC) network of blanket bogs and associated areas. This project includes the Ramsar site 336 Owenduff catchment.

[The Farm peat project](#) - •The Farm peat project The FarmPEAT (Farm Payments for Ecological and Agricultural Transitions) Project developed a locally-led, innovative, results-based farm scheme for farmers who manage lands that surround some of Ireland's finest remaining raised bogs. This project included land surrounding the Ramsar site 415 Clara Bog.

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

☒ C=Partially

### 11.5 Additional information

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

[STORIES FROM COMMUNITY PEATLAND PROJECTS](#)

## Target 12

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

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

12.1 Have national wetland restoration targets been established?

☒ D=Planned

### 12.1 Additional Information

>>> A national restoration plan will be developed as per requirements under the Nature Restoration Law. Actions in Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 include the preparation and delivery of a National Restoration Plan.

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

☒ C=Partially

### 12.2 Additional information

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

>>> Priority sites have been identified as a result of Ireland's commitments to the Habitats Directive, rather than as a result of a strategic ecological and conservation rationale.

For example as a result of the Habitat Directive commitments, there is considerable focus on restoration of peatland sites and more recently as part of the Governments Climate Action Plan.

- The National Parks and Wildlife Service have set a target to protect 3,600ha of active raised bog and its supporting habitat of 30,867ha. To this end they have proposed a restoration programme in three phases of 6 years ending in 2036 for all of the raised bogs in Ireland designated in SACs or NHAs which amounts to 129 sites.

In relation to blanket bogs and fens, no conservation target has been set to date.

- Raised bogs have been utilised by Bord na Móna since the 1940's for the production of milled and sod peat for energy, fuel and horticultural use. Bord Na Móna have now ceased production on all of their bogs. Under the IPC License, Bord na Mona must stabilise the peat in sites commercially exhausted which automatically sets a rehabilitation target of 88,000ha of peatland. The Government approved funding of €108m to Bord na Móna from the Climate Action Fund for the rehabilitation of 33,000ha of industrial cutaway bogs that were formally peat energy sites from 2021-2025.

<http://www.ipcc.ie/a-to-z-peatlands/irelands-peatland-conservation-action-plan/peatlands-climate-change-action-plan-2030/>

Background (bnmpcas.ie)

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

[Peatlands Climate Action Scheme](#)

[Peatlands and Climate Change Action Plan 2030](#)

## 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	97,500 km2	Target is for 30 % of Irish seas as marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2030.	32,500 km2
Inland			173.14km2 cutover bog has been restored (this includes prior to 2021) and includes 5,000 ha of raised bog restored).
Human-made			

### 12.3 Additional information

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

>>> • Launched in December 2021, WaterLANDS (Water-based Solutions for Carbon-storage, People, and Wilderness) is an ambitious Horizon 2020 Green Deal-funded project that aims to restore wetlands across Europe and lay the foundations for upscaling protection across wider areas.

[75ac9e292330cf973e59c2cf0c47a0eea96049fa.pdf](https://www.sanity.io/75ac9e292330cf973e59c2cf0c47a0eea96049fa.pdf) (sanity.io)

The Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is a blanket bog site covering 9,735 hectares (ha), comprising 11 habitats and 7 species protected under the Habitats and Birds Directives. The site is part of the EU INTERREG Collaborative Action for the Natura Network (CANN) project, a wetlands conservation project being delivered by partners in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland.

Erosion, peat-cutting, burning, invasive conifer encroachment and unmanaged recreation are the primary threats to the site. Restoration actions are being driven through a results-based agri-environment payment scheme (RBPS) whereby farmers receive funding in exchange for improving habitat quality and biodiversity. WaterLANDS is assisting farmers undertake restoration measures to improve their RBPS payments.

- The Bord na Móna Enhanced Decommissioning, Rehabilitation and Restoration Scheme (EDRRS) was established in 2020, as part of the Just Transition. It is sponsored by my Department and regulated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), with Bord Na Móna acting as the operators of the scheme. The EDRRS provides for the enhanced rehabilitation of 33,000 hectares of Bord na Móna peatlands that had been previously harvested for peat extraction for electricity generation over a 5-year period.

2023\_Annual\_Report\_Final.pdf (bnmpcas.ie)

- North East Galway Wetlands Project - People and Nature (galwaycommunityheritage.org)
- The FarmPEAT (Farm Payments for Ecological and Agricultural Transitions) is an EIP project which developed a locally-led, innovative, results-based agri environment payment scheme for farmers who manage lands that surround some of Ireland's finest remaining raised bogs.

FarmPEAT Project

- Tóchar is a three-year wetlands restoration project, co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund Programme. It aims to restore degraded wetlands, in the context of a just transition and move towards carbon neutrality.

<https://www.tocharwetlands.ie/>

- Coillte, Ireland's semi-state forestry company, is responsible for managing 440,000 hectares of primarily forested lands. Coillte's new strategic vision for forestry will see the redesign of 30,000 hectares of peatland forests by 2050 through a programme of rewetting or rewilding. Peatlands are valuable natural habitats and are also an important carbon sink, with drained or damaged peatlands emitting significant amounts of greenhouse gasses globally. Our Wild Western Peatlands project is actively working to find solutions that will benefit climate, biodiversity, water quality and local communities. The Wild Western Peatlands project will see Coillte Nature restore and rehabilitate approximately 2,100 hectares of Atlantic blanket bog and wet heath that is currently planted with commercial spruce and pine forests. Wild Western Peatlands - Coillte
- 20,000 farmers across Ireland's High Nature Value Landscapes have joined the results based cooperation stream of Ireland's national flagship agri-environmental scheme ACRES (Funded through CAP pillar II) ACRES promotes ecosystem restoration and conservation through Payment for ecosystem Services and investment in actions that increase carbon sinks while promoting biodiversity e.g., peatlands, soil management, extensive grassland management.

gov.ie - Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) (www.gov.ie)

- MPA-LIFE-IRELAND will develop a network of Marine Protected Areas in the Irish marine territory to meet Good Environmental Status and the 30% by 2030 target of Marine Protected Areas of the EU Biodiversity Strategy. The overall aim of MPA-LIFE-IRELAND achieve and maintain Good Environmental Status in Ireland's Marine Area by expanding and greatly improve Ireland's network of MPAs to reach a minimum of 30% coverage of the Maritime Area by 2030, delivering a network of objective-driven, well-managed, monitored and enforced MPAs. This will be achieved through a participatory Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) process involving the co-design, co-production and co-delivery of outcomes in close collaboration with marine stakeholder and citizens. LIFE 3.0 - LIFE22-IPE-IE-MPA-LIFE-IRELAND/101103680 (europa.eu)

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

MPA-LIFE-IRELAND - MPA-LIFE-IRELAND will develop a network of Marine Protected Areas in the Irish marine territory to meet Good Environmental Status and the 30% by 2030 target of Marine Protected Areas of the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) - Ireland's national Agri environment scheme

Wild Western peatlands - The Wild Western Peatlands project will see Coillte Nature restore and rehabilitate approximately 2,100 hectares of Atlantic blanket bog and wet heath that is currently planted with commercial spruce and pine forests.

Tóchar - A wetlands restoration project that is situated in Ireland's midlands and surrounding counties

The FarmPEAT (Farm Payments for Ecological and Agricultural Transitions) is an EIP project

North East Galway Wetlands Project

Enhanced Decommissioning, Rehabilitation and Restoration Scheme (EDRRS) Annual Report - Year 2 April 2022 to March 2023

waterlands Water-based solutions for carbon storage, people and wilderness

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

>>> Examples of actions under these guidelines are given under the guideline numbers below:

21. Ireland is among the first EU member states to cease use of an indigenous fossil fuel for climate action goals. In December 2023, Bord na Móna - now described as a 'climate solutions and renewable energy company' - announced that peat will no longer be used for power generation at its Edenderry Power Station in Offaly.

22. Peatlands and People is a 7-year EC-funded LIFE Integrated Project, led by Bord na Móna, that collaborates locally, regionally, nationally and internationally to generate and share solutions and knowledge for a systemic transformation to achieve this carbon neutral future through three pillars.

- A network of sites will be established to explore best practices in peatland restoration and rehabilitation and

design robust methodologies to monitor and analyse carbon fluxes. Knowledge gained will allow Ireland to become a Peatlands Centre of Excellence. Over time the peatlands are expected to store more carbon and support multiple ecosystem service benefits.

- A Just Transition Accelerator programme for innovation will focus on low-carbon and circular economies to support the region economically. It intends to provide a range of services to SMEs to support the development of new sustainable products, services, enterprises and value chains.

- An immersive and inspiring People's Discovery Attraction will be designed to introduce the importance of climate action, peatlands and behaviour change. Its long-term aim is to progress with the establishment of an educational space that cultivates curiosity and climate literacy, providing a forum for dialogue and discovery. Ireland's Climate Action Catalyst | Peatlands & People (peatlandsandpeople.ie)

25. Irish peat soils – vital for the environment – are far more vast than we realised - News & Events | Trinity College Dublin (tcd.ie)

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

Irish peat soils – vital for the environment – are far more vast than we realised - 25.

Ireland's Climate Action Catalyst - 22.

## Target 13

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10 and 14]

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

*Please select only one per square.*

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

>>> (a) Energy

a) Approximately 37,000 hectares (ha) of Irish peatlands have been rehabilitated since the 1990s. The Enhanced Decommissioning, Rehabilitation and Restoration Scheme (EDRRS) Bord na Móna Peatlands Climate Action Scheme (bnmpcas.ie) is an extensive peatlands restoration project. Bord na Móna commenced the

rehabilitation/restoration of eligible peatlands under EDRRS in 2021, with a target set to rehabilitate circa 33,000 hectares by 2030. As of March 31st, 2024, 17,314 hectares of once degraded peatlands have been rehabilitated. Bord na Móna has been a co-ordinating beneficiary for the Peatlands and People LIFE Project since October 2020. Home | Ireland's Climate Action Catalyst | Peatlands & People (peatlandsandpeople.ie). This 7-year EU funded initiative is a collaborative effort designed to restore peatlands throughout Ireland's midlands, alongside supporting local communities in transitioning to a low-carbon economy. Bord na Móna is also an associated partner for the Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE Project, Home - Wild Atlantic Nature and contributes towards this initiative through the rehabilitation of 230 hectares of drained blanket bog at Ballycroy, Co. Mayo. This 9-year EU-funded project has a core aim of augmenting Ireland's performance in conservation through the rehabilitation of 35 blanket bogs and associated habitats across counties Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo and Galway.

(h) forestry

H)Forestry

At a site level, The Department of Agriculture, food and the marine (DAFM) will not approve the afforestation of any undesignated Annex I habitat or any wetland habitat listed under Irish Wetland Types – an identification guide and field survey manual (Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee, 2018). [irish-wetlands-guide.pdf](#) (npws.ie) Such habitats must be excluded from the application. An appropriate habitat setback will also be required so as not to impact on future prospects.

Irish Wetland Types – an identification guide and field survey manual (Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee, 2018) lists 13 different wetland habitats types found in Ireland, Due regard will also be given to county results under the Wetland Survey of Ireland.

The Department applies specific safeguards regarding FPM, as set out in the Forestry & Freshwater Pearl Mussel Requirements: Site Assessment and Mitigation Measures (DAFM, 2008), subsequently amended to include thinning, as per Appendix 22 of the Forestry Standards Manual. The Forestry & Freshwater Pearl Mussel Requirements apply to all applications for forestry licences and approvals within the 6 km hydrological catchment of FPM populations within rivers and lakes designated as SACs for the species, and within the entire catchment of the Top 8 FPM catchments.

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

Conservation and development - (j) Fisheries

Forestry standards manual - (h) forestry

Irish Wetland Types An Identification Guide and Field Survey Manual - Irish wetland habitat types- these must be excluded from afforestation scheme applications

) Tourism- recreational boating - (d) tourism

Native tree area scheme - (c) Agriculture.

National afforestation scheme - (c) Agriculture.

Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) - (c) Agriculture.

Targeted Agriculture Modernisation Schemes (TAMS) - (c) Agriculture.

Organic farming scheme - (c) Agriculture.

CAP payments conditionality - (c) Agriculture. Conditionality sets the baseline requirements for farmers in receipt of CAP payments and replaces the “cross compliance” requirements in the previous CAP. Conditionality relates to the climate and the environment

Ireland's national agri environment scheme ACRES - (c) Agriculture

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

☒ A=Yes

13.2 Additional information

>>> Strategic Environmental Assessment is needed for certain plans and programmes as required under the SEA Directive. Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment is available from the EPA. See <http://www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/>

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

Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment-Environmental Impact Assessment Tiering

Monitoring & assessment: Strategic environmental assessment Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the process by which environmental

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

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

Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations - These regulations are under Government review.

Environmental Impact Assessment

### 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}

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

#### Target 16

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 21].

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

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

*Please select only one per square.*

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

#### 16.1 Additional information

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

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

<https://www.npws.ie/peatlands-and-turf-cutting/management-plans>

Monaghan Wetland Action Plan - Local/site level - through local authority initiatives e.g. Monaghan Wetland Action Plan

Local Authority Waters Programme - catchment management work plans will be put in place for each of the 46 hydrometric catchments as sub-plans to the national Plan. These will be coordinated by Local Authority Waters Programme - Local Authority Water Programme (lawaters.ie)

River Basin Management Plan 2022 - 2027 - Broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions are planned/in progress at the catchment/basin level. The national River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 describes Integrated Catchment Planning: catchment management work plans will be put in place for each of the 46 hydrometric catchments as sub-plans to the national Plan. These will contain CEPA actions

National Peatlands Strategy - Broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established nationally in this documents

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ G=More than #

>>> 12

b) at other wetlands

☒ G=More than #

>>> 10

#### 16.2 Additional information

>>> There are education and/or visitor centres at several Ramsar sites e.g. Coole Park, Clara Bog, Bull Island, Lough Boora Park, St Killians Centre, Mullagh (Kilyconny Bog SAC), Mountbellew (Carrownagappul Bog SAC), Cabragh Centre, Ballybay Wetland Centre, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, Ballycroy National Park Centre, Glenveagh National Park Visitor Centre, Tralee Bay wetland centre, and other wetland sites.

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

wetlands to visit around Ireland - The private company Irish Wetlands have created an on-line story map 'Wetlands to visit around Ireland'. The story map brings you on an informative tour of 40 wetlands around Ireland where you can learn more about these fascinating habitats. The story map includes map location information, a brief summary of what you can discover at the sites, a summary of facilities at each location, and a link to further information from the groups that manage the reserves, opening times and much more. Want to visit an Irish wetland? — Wetland Surveys  
IPCC's Peatland Nature Reserves

#### 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

>>> These objectives are/will be largely achieved through cross sectoral representation on the Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee and feedback to parent organisations. The IRWC is comprised of individuals from 20 organisations including universities, government departments, EPA, Local authorities, semi-state bodies and NGOs.

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 16.4 Additional information

>>> The IRWC seeks to meet 3-4 times a year, with at least one meeting combined with a visit to a wetland site. The IRWC Terms of Reference state the following: The committee will seek to support the implementation of the three objectives of the Ramsar Convention. It will undertake this task through the following measures. Strategically, it will: • Provide a coordinated mechanism for increasing awareness of the Convention's approach to wetland and water-related issues • Link policy makers with policy implementers • Promote guidance on the 'wise use of wetlands'

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

<https://www.irishwetlands.ie/> - website of the Irish Ramsar Wetlands committee

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

☒ Y=Not Relevant

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) other MEA national focal points	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 16.7 Additional information

>>> 40 events nationally on World Wetlands day some of which included Convention on Wetland branding World Wetlands Day 2024 - Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee (irishwetlands.ie)

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

<https://www.irishwetlands.ie/world-wetlands-day-2024/>

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

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

<https://www.irishwetlands.ie/the-world-wetlands-day-photo-competition/>

16.9 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {18.5}

☒ A=Yes

#### 16.9 Additional Information

>>> see above

### Target 17

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 17.4 Additional information

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

>>> Annual Contribution as a Contracting Party - €21,495

Hiring Irish Ramsar wetland committee assistant - €20,000 per year

### Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

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

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

#### 18.3 Additional information

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

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

Breeding waders EIP - •WWT are a partner in the national Breeding Waders EIP project which aims to secure existing Breeding Wader populations and support population recovery through landscape management and policy development. This EIP-Agri project is a €25 million nationwide project, co-funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

<http://>

<https://flotillafoundation.org/projects/securing-the-future-of-irelands-seabirds> - Bird life International: A project partner

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 18.4 Additional information

>>> • Protecting European rivers and wetlands: The Rivers Trust announces Ireland's RiWet Project launch Press release: Protecting European rivers and... | The Rivers Trust

• BUFFER+ is a new Interreg NWE-funded project that will run for four years through individual partner projects across five NW European countries (Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany and The Netherlands). Each project aims to restore the capacity of peatlands to buffer water and carbon. BUFFER+ partners focus on practical and economically viable climate change adaptations and mitigation methods, while at the same time working to restore biodiversity and create new revenue streams.

Interreg NWE Buffer+ project - BeeOdiversity

• Integrated strategy for sustainable management of insular habitats in Natura 2000 islands of the Atlantic Ocean (Spain and Ireland) The project (lifeinsular.eu)

• In September 2023, the Irish Ramsar wetland Committee had a meeting and field trip with colleagues in Northern Ireland from the Department of Agriculture to discuss Ramsar sites and potential for collaboration. There are 20 Ramsar sites in NI, seven of these are along the NI-RoI border and 2 are along the RoI-NI border. In NI there is no wetlands committee.

The committee discussed the range of possible opportunities for cross-border working to promote RAMSAR. There may be funding opportunities for cross-border work via, for example, the Shared Ireland Initiative (2021-25) and PEACE PLUS.

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

[LIFE Insular project](#)

[•BUFFER+ Interreg NWE-funded project](#)

<https://theriverstrust.org/press-releases/press-release-protecting-european-rivers-and-wetlands-the-rivers-trust-announces-irelands-riwet-project-launch>

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

☒ B=No

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

>>> CatchmentCARE (C atchment A ctions for R esilient E co-systems) was an EU-funded project that aims to improve freshwater quality in cross-border river basins across three cross-border catchments for 5 years 2018-2013.

Catchment Care - Catchment Actions For Resilient Ecosystems

• The CANN project was a cross-border environment project which aimed to improve the condition of protected habitats and to support priority species found within Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland, allowing the region to meet key EU biodiversity targets and ensuring the future of these internationally important habitats and species.

The CANN Project (newrymournedown.org)

• Working cross-border in nature conservation with regard to different designations, structures and management

Layout 1 (crossborder.ie)

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

<https://crossborder.ie/newsite/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Website-8-Working-Cross-Border.pdf>

<https://www.newrymournedown.org/the-cann-project>

<https://catchmentcare.eu/>

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 18.7 Additional information

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

>>> • The cross-channel Cuckoo tracking project that aims to find out where Irish cuckoos spend their winter

months. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) hopes that the project will also answer the question of whether Irish cuckoos undertake a different migration strategy to their British counterparts across the Irish Sea. The Cuckoo Tracking Project is being undertaken by the NPWS and the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Irish Cuckoo Tracking Project hopes to solve migration mysteries | National Parks & Wildlife Service (npws.ie)

- MarPAMM is an environment project to develop tools for monitoring and managing a number of protected coastal marine environments in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland.

About MarPAMM – MarPAMM (mpa-management.eu)

- Breeding waders EIP Breeding Waders EIP

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

<https://breedingwaders.ie/>

[https://mpa-management.eu/?page\\_id=663](https://mpa-management.eu/?page_id=663)

<https://www.npws.ie/news/irish-cuckoo-tracking-project-hopes-solve-migration-mysteries>

## Target 19

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20]

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ X=Unknown

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

☒ B=No

