



RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

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Section 1: Institutional Information

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

Name of Contracting Party

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

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

>>> Italy

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[m_amte.MASE.REGISTRO_UFFICIALE\(U\).0226175.10-12-2024.pdf](#)

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

>>> Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

>>> Rear Adm. Francesco Tomas

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Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title

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

Name and title

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Name of organisation

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

Name and title

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Name of organisation

>>> Sogesid S.p.A.

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

Name and title

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Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP14 reporting)

A. What have been the five main achievements of the implementation of the Convention since COP14?

- 1)
>>> Update of the wetland cartography, with particular focus to Ramsar Sites
- 2)
>>> Resumption of the updating of RIS sheets
- 3)
>>> Beginning of a collaboration with ESA (European Space Agency) and Tour de Valat (Research Institute for the Conservation of Mediterranean Wetlands) for updating the national inventory of wetlands using satellite images
- 4)
>>> Incentives for the protection of aquatic ecosystems present in agricultural areas of Ramsar sites have been included in the new CAP (EU Common Agricultural Policy) under the new GAEC2 (Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition) standards
- 5)
>>> Organization of several actions by many partners around the country at the occasion of World Wetland Day

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

- 1)
>>> Collect data on wetlands for populating wetland status indicators (e.g. SDG 6.6.1)
- 2)
>>> Collect data on Ramsar sites for the compilation of RIS sheets
- 3)
>>> Definition of management plans for all Ramsar sites
- 4)
>>> Creating an inventory of wetlands with satellite images that allows monitoring of the extent and state of these environments over time
- 5)
>>> Establishing coordination with the management bodies of the Ramsar sites

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

- 1)
>>> Relaunch the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Italy
- 2)
>>> Reposition the Ramsar Convention as a tool to address the triple crisis of climate, biodiversity and pollution and promote ecosystem restoration and wise use
- 3)
>>> Obtain international recognition for nine sites that have already been designated at national level
- 4)
>>> Ensure that sites are compliant with the Ramsar Convention
- 5)
>>> Raise awareness at the international level about efforts that are made in Italy on the protection and restoration of wetlands, including as nature-based solutions

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

>>> Please improve the usability of the online RIS tool and of the offline RIS template

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.

>>> Italy pursues gender equality in all sectors and at all levels, in line with art. 3, 37, 51 and 117 of its Constitution and other relevant normative acts, including the National Strategy for Gender Equality.

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).

>>> A Youth Focal Point was appointed pursuant to Res. XIV.12 (2022).

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

>>> Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, National Institute for Environmental Research and Protection (ISPRA)

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

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

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

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

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

Target 1

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14]

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

Please select only one per square.

a) National policy or strategy for wetland management	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Poverty eradication strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
e) Integrated coastal zone management plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
f) National forest management plan/strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
g) National policies or measures on agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

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

1.1 Additional information

>>> Wetlands issues were integrated into national law (L.394/91) on protected areas and into legislative decrees no. 152/99 and 152 /2006 on water protection, and by L.221/2015 "Environmental provisions to promote green economy measures and to contain the excessive use of natural resources".

The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/CE) and the Dlgs 152/2006 foresaw that River District Management Plans maintain the water quality of wetlands or define the measures to avoid the quality deterioration of the ecological status of waters and the conservation status of aquatic habitat & species. Since Ramsar sites overlap almost totally with Nature 2000 sites, i.e. protected areas according to Habitat (92/43/CEE) and Birds (2009/147/CE) Directives, their preservation is also assured by D.P.R. 357/97 on Minimum requirements under the Habitat directive.

Among national strategies, there is also the "National Strategies and Plans on adaptation to climate change" and the "National Strategy for Sustainable Development" 2017-2030.

Italy has "indirectly" integrated elements of protection and valorization of wetlands also in the strategies and political plans related to tourism, in particular in the Strategic Tourism Plan 2023-2027. Among the key aspects there is the need to develop tourism that respects the environment and responsibly exploits natural resources, including protected areas and wetlands, promoting their restoration and conservation.

Wetlands, as an integral part of protected areas, are considered as key resources for sustainable tourism, in line with European and international environmental policies. This is also consistent with the approach of the Sustainable Tourism Fund launched in 2023, which aims at financing interventions aimed at promoting ecotourism and valuing natural ecosystems, including wetlands.

In summary, wetlands, although not always explicitly mentioned in these documents, are part of the natural resources whose protection and valorization are included in the context of sustainability promoted by the Strategic Tourism Plan 2023-2027 and other related initiatives.

At a local level, experiences integrate the valorization of wetlands also in the context of sustainable tourism, which presuppose at least ad hoc management models. In fact, the main experiences include regional parks, which presuppose the promotion and use of the park for tourism purposes, particularly the experience of the Tepilora Regional Natural Park, Sardinia. In this specific case, the Municipality of Posada, part of the park and the UNESCO/MAB Biosphere Reserve, seems to have implemented a sustainable management model for its wetlands. The park, recognized for its high environmental value, promotes tourist activities that respect the fragile ecosystem of the wetlands, combining the protection of biodiversity with ecotourism initiatives, such as guided tours and environmental education programs.

Several Italian cities, especially coastal ones, host wetlands of great importance and value, established and protected by international conventions for their naturalistic interest (e.g. the Cagliari Ponds, Molentargius Ponds and Orbetello Lagoons Ramsar Sites).

According to the Italian Constitution, however, the legislative competence in urban planning matters lies with the Regions. Therefore, it is difficult to identify urban planning policies at a national level to compile the Report. However, the National Strategy for Biodiversity for 2030 gives indications at a national level on how to orient urban transformations in the direction of protection and conservation of this important natural ecosystems.

The National Strategic Aquaculture Plan 2021-2027, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, will implement actions for the conservation of protected habitat.

The Action 2.5 has the main Objective: Development and mapping of aquaculture in protected areas, NATURA 2000 sites, SIC and SPAs and will provide information on the ecosystem services of aquaculture in these areas.

Indicators for achievement: 2.5.1 Plants and/or pilot projects within areas of environmental value; 2.5.2 Guidelines on the quantification of environmental services of aquaculture; 2.5.3 Conservation (measures) of habitats, species and species habitats protected by the Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC, 92/43/CEE e 2009/147/CE.

The geolocalization of aquaculture sites in wetland areas has been implemented by ISPRA in AquaGIS portal (<https://sinacloud.isprambiente.it/portal/apps/sites/#/acquacoltura-1>).

In Italy aquaculture activities in wetlands are commonly integrated with other activities, such as fish tourism, food and wine tourism, cultural activities, in particular in the fishing valleys of the Northern Adriatic (Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto and Emilia Romagna) and in some Sardinian ponds (e.g. Feraxi, Cagliari) which represent examples of sustainable management for the environment and local economies

Waste Directive 91/271/EEC concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of waste water generated by urban agglomerations (areas in which the population and/or economic activities are sufficiently concentrated to make collection possible and the conveyance of waste water towards a treatment plant or towards a discharge point) and from some industrial sectors, providing that all agglomerations above 2,000 equivalent inhabitants (p.e. - the equivalent inhabitants, sum of residents and floating, express the load generated by the agglomeration or its size) are equipped with suitable collection (art. 3) and treatment (art. 4 and 5) systems compliant with the requirements set out in Annex I B, indicating adaptation times (between 1998 and 2005) depending on the load generated and the discharge area (in a "normal" or "sensitive" area).

This is because, as specified in Article 1, the aim of the directive is to protect the environment from the negative repercussions caused by the aforementioned wastewater discharges. The directive was implemented into our system in 1999 with legislative decree no. 152, subsequently repealed and replaced by legislative decree no. 152 of 2006, Environmental regulations (Official Gazette no. 88 of 14 April 2006).

The third part "Regulations regarding soil protection and fight against desertification, protection of waters from pollution and management of water resources" and the related annex 5 "Water waste emission limits" of the aforementioned decree contain the relevant regulations to the directive.

SINTAI (<https://sintai.isprambiente.it/>): On this page, summary reports are made available, forwarded to the

European Union Commission through the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive electronic questionnaire, of all the information transmitted by the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces, in compliance with art.15 of the Directive. They also contain, as required by art. 17, information regarding the planning processes of the technological adaptation/strengthening interventions of the purification plants and/or the related sewerage networks.

Target 2

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

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

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

☒ D=Planned

2.1 Additional Information

>>> The River Basin Management Plans (RBMP), based on Directive 2000/60/EU implemented by Legislative Decree 152/2006, provide for a quantitative and qualitative assessment of water bodies aimed indirectly also at maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands. RBMPs are superordinate to all other land-use planning tools.

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

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

☒ C=Partially

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

☒ C=Partially

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

>>> - LIFE STREAMS project funded by the European Union aimed to restore water bodies to protect *Salmo cettii* population and aquatic species and habitat (www.lifestreams.eu)

- LIFE Forestall project funded by the European Union, aimed to restore Valle Averte located within two Natura 2000 sites and within a site included in the list of "Ramsar Site (<https://lifeforestall.eu/>)

- LIFE Seresto project, funded by the European Union, aimed to restore coastal lagoon habitat of Venice lagoon by transplanting submerged plants.

- LIFE Lagoon Refresh project, funded by the European Union, aimed to restore the typical salt gradient of buffer areas between lagoon and mainland, for restoration of the reedbed habitat, and for improvement of the lagoon environment and its biodiversity (www.lifelagoonrefresh.eu)

- PNRR Po river restoration project

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

☒ A=Yes

2.6 Additional Information

>>> - National phytoremediation database SINTAI: in the SNPA document the reuse of urban wastewater from urban purification plants: survey of controls and national cognitive framework (SNPA Council Res. 254/24 of 07/23/2024) case studies are reported for 6 regions and the Trento Autonomous Province (www.sintai.isprambiente.it/public/riutilizzo/home.xhtml).

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.

>>> Incentive measures are included in the management plans of Natura 2000 Parks and Sites (protected areas established on the basis of the European Habitat directives no. 92/43/EEC and Birds directives no.

2009/147/EC) in which the Ramsar sites fall, for actions to mitigate the impacts of anthropogenic activities on aquatic ecosystems and wetlands. Incentives for the protection of aquatic ecosystems present in agricultural areas of the Ramsar areas have been included in the new CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) in the GAEC2 (Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions) standard.

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

Please select only one per square.

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

3.2 Additional information

>>> Conservation actions involving farmers aimed at minimizing impacts on wetlands, such as not using strips of land close to the water body or not using herbicides and other pesticides that have harmful effects on aquatic ecosystems, are underway in some Ramsar sites (e.g. Gorgi Tondi and Preola Lakes and the Mezzola Lake Nature Reserve).

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

☒ A=Yes

3.3 Additional information

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

>>> The National Action Plan for the sustainable use of phytosanitary products (Decree 22/01/2014) implementing the directive 2009/128/CE, identify the Ramsar sites as priority areas of protection and establishes that specific measures for the prohibition of the use of phytosanitary products in the Ramsar areas should be identified. Application of UE agronomic rules are strongly endorsed in farming areas affecting wetlands.

3.4 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which lead to degradation or loss of wetlands? {3.4}

☒ D=Planned

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

>>> Italy has an inventory of invasive alien species, implemented by ISPRA, this includes also impacts on wetlands.

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}

☒ C=En partie

4.2 Additional information

>>> Italy has implemented the Reg. (CE) 708/2007 for the "Introduction of exotic species and translocation of locally absent species used for aquaculture purpose and related regulations (Reg. (CE) 506/2008, Reg. (CE) 535/2008, Reg. (UE) 304/2011) within national policies for prevention and control of introduction for aquaculture. This includes also risk analysis in wetland areas (www.registro-asa.it).

No specific rules for wetlands, but in accordance with EU Reg. 1143/2014 Italy has policies and rules for prevention, rapid response and management of invasive alien species of Union concern.

According to D.Lgs.230/17 Italy has formally adopted national management action plans for the following species: *Myocastor coypus*, *Threskiornis aethiopicus*, *Myriophyllum aquaticum*, *Lagarosiphon major*, *Trachemys scripta*, *Procambarus clarkii*, *Procambarus fallax f. virginalis*, *Orconectes limosus*, *Pacifastacus leniusculus*). Other national plans have been developed (*Eichhornia crassipes*, *Ludwigia grandiflora*, *Ludwigia peploides*, ...) and are in the process of approval. All the management plans approved are available at this link: www.mase.gov.it/pagina/piani-di-gestione-nazionali-approvati

With the aim of containing and combating the phenomenon of the spread and proliferation of blue crab, *Callinectes sapidus*, occurred from spring 2023 along Italian coast and wetland areas, the Agriculture Decree (no. 63 of 15 May 2024) has appointed the extraordinary national Emergency Commissioner "Blue Crab". The Commissioner is drafting an intervention plan with measures to defend biodiversity, for the collection of species, the implementation of suitable structures to contain the invasion, investments to prevent the worsening of the damage to the economy of the aquaculture and fisheries sectors, especially aquaculture companies that lost 100% of their Manila clam production (>25.000 ton). ISPRA supports the implementation of the National Plan on Blue Crab Emergency.

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

☒ F=Fewer than #

>>> 10

4.3 Additional Information

>>> Management plan of the Coypu (*Myocastor coypus*) being discussed for approval; management plan for several water weeds and for the Louisiana crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) being developed. New regulation on the release of alien fish being enforced.

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

☒ A=Yes

4.4 Additional Information

>>> Report to the UE on the implementation of the EU Regulation 1143/2014 includes an analysis of effectiveness of wetlands invasive alien species control.

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

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

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

Target 5

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

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

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

☒ C=Partially

5.1 Additional information

>>> The designations of new Ramsar sites have been made by using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 50

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

☒ X=Unknown

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

☒ X=Unknown

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

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

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

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ X=Unknown

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

☒ X=Unknown

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

>>> Digital maps for all designated sites were shared with the Secretariat. The RIS sheets are too complicated for site managers and regional authorities to compile and update. The RIS template was translated into Italian. Existing data from national databases was shared with select regional authorities and site managers. Italy is actively engaging with the Working Group on RIS Updating to help simplify the template and streamline the process.

Target 7

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

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

7.1 Additional information

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

>>> C=Some Cases

The monitoring activities carried out on the basis of the WFD, Habitat & Bird Directives provide useful data to evaluate the negative effects of anthropogenic activities. However, these data are not always made immediately available to the managing bodies of the Ramsar sites.

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

☒ C=Some Cases

Section 3 - Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

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

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

Target 8

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

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

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

☒ A=Yes

8.1 Additional information

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

>>> - The National Inventory of Wetlands is published here: <https://www.mase.gov.it/pagina/inventario-delle-zone-umide-ispra-mattm-2011>

- Another national inventory of Italian wetlands monitored during IWC counts (www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/attivita/biodiversita/ispra-e-la-biodiversita/attivita-e-progetti/progetto-iwc-italia) is available and regularly updated in particular regarding the data from the waterfowl censuses. Wetland boundaries have been partly digitised and are currently not available.

- ISPRA in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment and the Agency for the protection of the environment of the Tuscany Region has realized a national wetland inventory using the methodology of MEDWET (the Pan Mediterranean Wetland Inventory - PMWI) which currently needs to be updated (<http://sgi1.isprambiente.it/zoneumide/>).

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

☒ A=Yes

8.2 Additional information

>>> - The latest update of the national wetland inventory PMWI was realized in 2016 (see <http://sgi1.isprambiente.it/zoneumide/>).

- The list of wetlands monitored during IWC counts is annually disseminated among counters, and its most updated version can be downloaded from <http://www.cuaweb.net/documenti/2024N.zip>; <http://www.cuaweb.net/documenti/2024CS.zip>; <http://www.cuaweb.net/documenti/2024SS.zip>.

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ A=Regular intervals ≤ 6 years

8.3 Additional information

>>> The answer refers to the national inventory of Italian wetlands monitored during IWC counts (www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/attivita/biodiversita/ispra-e-la-biodiversita/attivita-e-progetti/progetto-iwc-italia).

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 NWI data is kept in the ISPRA information system.

8.6 Based on the information in NWI, if available, please provide the total area in square kilometres (km²) for the extent of wetlands (according to the Convention on Wetland's definition) for the year of available data and provide the relevant disaggregated information in the box below. This information will also be used to report on SDG 6, Target 6.6, Indicator 6.6.1, for which the Convention is a co-custodian. {8.6}

☒ E=# km²

>>> Around 5.800 km² is data from the PMWI. Please note that the data is not homogeneous at the national level.

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km²)

>>> 1515

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km²)

>>> 2095

8.6 Human-made wetlands

	Square kilometers (km ²)
1 -- Aquaculture ponds.	503
2 -- Ponds	
3 -- Irrigated land	

4 -- Seasonally flooded agricultural land	
5 -- Salt exploitation sites	
6 -- Water storage areas	
7 -- Excavations	
8 -- Wastewater treatment areas	
9 -- Canals and drainage channels, ditches	
Zk(c) - Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	

8.6 Human-made wetlands total (km2)

>>> 786

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Nota_8.6.txt

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

8.8 Additional Information

>>> In general from the data on biological indicators for rivers and lakes from 2017-2018 to 2022 it is found that:

- the river macrobenthos (which is affected by different pressures) is almost stable over the years in achieving the quality objectives (class I+II);
- the plant components, which are most affected by organic load pressures, are worsening for rivers and improving for lakes.

However, the data reported refers to the national monitoring programmed by the Regional Agencies for Environmental Protection (ARPA/APPA) over the course of a six-year cycle and therefore the stations differ from each other annually (ref. ISPRA/SNPA Yearbook Data).

Comparing the data for the three-year period 2014-2016; 2017-2019; 2020-2022), for the biological quality element "Macrophytes" there is a progressive increase in water bodies in "good" and "high" status (24.2% in the first period, 27.3% in the second period and 38.2 % in the third period) for tidal water bodies and, for non-tidal water bodies, an increase between the first and second three-year period (from 56.3% to 62.3%) followed by a decrease in the third (50.9%).

Comparing the data for the three-year period 2014-2016; 2017-2019; 2020-2022), for the biological quality element "Benthic macroinvertebrates" there is a variation in the number of water bodies in "good" and "high" status from 26.5% to 38.3% from the first to the third three-year period of monitoring for tidal water bodies, while for non-tidal water bodies there is a slight improvement from the first to the third three-year period, going from 36.9% to 51.8% of water bodies in "good" and "high" status.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Nota_8.8_b\).docx](#) - Note to 8.8 b) Inland

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

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

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

	Yes
a) Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Relevant skills	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Data systems and management	<input 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 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}

☒ A=Yes

9.1 Additional information

>>> National strategy for biodiversity was approved 2023 (Ministerial of Environment Decree n. 252/2023).

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

>>> Ministerial Decree on lead-free ammunition of 9 February 2023, n. 72, according to REACH European Regulation n. 2021/57.

9.3 Do your country's water governance and management systems recognize wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {9.3}

☒ A=Yes

9.3 Additional information

>>> The European Water Directive 2000/60/CE provides for the protection of water bodies and associated aquatic ecosystems, including wetlands.

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}

☒ D=Planned

9.4 Additional information

>>> European Directives 2000/60/EC and 2007/60/EC require that Water Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans be made available to the public and that Member States encourage the active participation of interested parties.

The art. 66 of Legislative Decree 152/2006 also provides that the basin authorities promote the active participation of all interested parties in the preparation, review and updating of the basin plans, ensuring that, for each river basin district, they are published and made available for any comments by the public, including users.

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

>>> In Italy and in Europe a strengthening of the role of wetlands in mitigation to climate change is foreseen thanks to the adoption (in early 2018) of the new regulation on the inclusion of emissions and greenhouse gas absorptions resulting from land use, change in land use and forestry (LULUCF Regulation). In fact, this regulation provides that, in order to ensure the LULUCF sector does not give rise to net emissions on its territory, starting from 2026, emissions and removals deriving from the wet areas managed must be accounted for.

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

>>> - National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, approved by the Ministry of the Environment on 21 December 2023 (www.mase.gov.it/notizie/clima-approvato-il-piano-nazionale-di-adattamento-ai-cambiamenti-climatici)

- Long-term Italian strategy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions
(www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/lts_gennaio_2021.pdf)
- National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change
(www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/clima/documento_SNAC.pdf)

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}

☒ B=No

9.7 Additional information

>>> Currently there are Plans, such as that of the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy of Europe) or the management plans of protected areas in which the Ramsar sites fall or of the Ramsar sites, which provide incentives for sustainable agriculture that supports the conservation of wet areas in Ramsar Zone, not vice versa.

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

>>> ISPRA in 2017 carried out a project in 6 Ramsar sites, founded by the Ministry of the Environment and in collaboration with the University of Urbino, aimed at evaluating ecosystem services related to the water cycle in relation to various agricultural practices.

The project "Wetland4Change" which marks the start of a highly ambitious Interreg Euro-MED project, included in the Natural Heritage Mission and which aims to combat climate change with solutions based on wetlands. Recognizing the crucial role these areas play in carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas reduction and flood prevention, Wetland4Change is promoting the development and testing of two case studies: one on CO2 storage, i.e. how to measure the efficiency of ponds and lagoons in terms of C-Sequestration, and the other on flood risk prevention, or what measures can be taken thanks to wetlands to mitigate the risk due to the effects of climate change. The measurement and monitoring tests of the two case studies will take place in 5 pilot sites located in Bulgaria, Greece, France, Spain and Italy (<https://wetland4change.interreg-euro-med.eu/>).

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}

☒ C=Partially

9.9 Additional information

>>> The LIFE Metro Adapt project (founded by the European Union) aims to integrate climate change strategies in the Metropolitan City of Milan (www.lifemetroadapt.eu).

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

☒ C=Partially

9.10 Additional information

>>> Small wetlands of interest for biodiversity have also been included in the national inventory of wetlands, based on the indications of the competent regional administrations (<http://sgi1.isprambiente.it/zoneumide/>).

Target 10

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

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

☒ C1= Partially

10.1 Additional Information

>>> In general, the management plans of a protected area provide for the involvement of local communities and farmers in the implementation of the conservation measures contained in the Plan, but not active participation in management. However, the national law on protected areas (Law n. 394/1991) requires that representation of the local community be included in the protected area governing council.

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}

☒ D=Planned

10.3 Additional information

>>> For local communities

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}

☒ B=No

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

☒ C=In Preparation

10.5 Additional information

>>> ISPRA within the scope of a project financed by the Ministry of the Environment has defined indications for the management of agricultural areas using traditional methods that allow to reduce and avoid the use of pesticides, particularly those harmful to aquatic ecosystems (ISPRA Report 330/2020).

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

>>> ISPRA in 2017 has carried out a project in six Ramsar sites, with funding from the Ministry of the Environment and in collaboration with the University of Urbino, aimed at evaluating ecosystem services related to the water cycle in relation to various agricultural practices. The Ramsar Sites considered in that study are Bacino dell'Angitola, Lago di Nazzano, Lago di Sabaudia, Stagno di Cabras, Laghi di Murana, Preola e Gorgi Tondi and Pian di Spagna - Lago di Mezzola.

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

☒ X=Unknown

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

☒ D=Planned

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

☒ D=Planned

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

>>> The European regulation for habitat restoration provides that all Member States must implement habitat restoration actions, with particular attention to those in an inadequate or bad conservation status, including those linked to aquatic ecosystems. The goal is to restore at least 20 percent of Europe's lands and seas to their original state within the decade.

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

☒ D=Planned

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

☒ A=Yes

12.3 Additional information

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

>>> The largest project for biodiversity and adaptation to climate change to be included in the Italian Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) is the renaturation of the Po area (Investment 3.3). A large part of the planned interventions concerns the restoration of wetlands in a context where the Po Delta is one of the most important complexes of wetlands in Europe, as well as being the second largest in the Mediterranean after the Nile Delta.

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}

☒ X=Unknown

Target 13

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10 and 14]

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

Please select only one per square.

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

h) Forestry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
i) Aquaculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
j) Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

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

>>> The Strategic Environmental Assessment provides for the assessment of plans and programs that may have a significant impact on the environment, including wetlands, and aims to ensure a high level of environmental protection and contribute to the integration of considerations environmental issues when drawing up, adopting and approving such plans and programs, ensuring that they are coherent and contribute to the conditions for sustainable development. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), at national level, is regulated by the Second Part of Legislative Decree 3 April 2006, no. 152, as amended and supplemented by Legislative Decree 16 January 2008, no. 4, and by Legislative Decree 29 June 2010, no. 128.

13.3 Is there a legal requirement in your country to conduct environmental impact assessments for development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) from key sectors (e.g., water, energy, mining and agriculture) that may impact wetlands? {13.2}

☒ A=Yes

13.3 Additional information

>>> The environmental assessment aims to ensure that anthropic activities are compatible with the conditions for sustainable development, and therefore take into consideration the regenerative capacity of ecosystems and resources, the safeguarding of biodiversity and an equitable distribution of the benefits associated with economic activity. In Europe, this procedure was introduced by the Community Directive 85/337/EEC (Council Directive of 27 June 1985) as a fundamental instrument of environmental policy. The EIA was implemented in Italy with Law 8 July 1986, no. 349, and subsequent amendments.

Section 3 - Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

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

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

Target 15

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

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

☒ A=Yes

15.1 Additional information

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

>>> Italy has been supportive of the MedWet Ramsar Regional Initiative since its inception. However, the Ministry of Environment is not in a position to provide financial support to this initiative anymore. The Regional Agency for the Protection of the Environment (ARPA) of Tuscany has been part of the scientific and technical teams for the conservation of wetlands in the Mediterranean within MedWet. Italy is also interested in an eventual Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Alps, in case such initiative materializes.

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

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ X=Unknown

b) at other wetlands

☒ X=Unknown

16.2 Additional information

>>> Most wetlands, Ramsar Sites and other wetlands of local or national importance, have a visitor center. More information: www.parks.it/indice/zone_umide/index.php

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

16.3 Additional information

>>> The national Law on Protected Areas (Law nO. 394/1991) requires the representation of the local community to be included in the protected area governing council. In general, for the designation of a Ramsar Site, local governments are consulted, i.e. regions and municipalities.

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

☒ B=No

16.4 Additional information

>>> There used to be an Interministerial Working Group on Wetlands until the COVID crisis. It has been dormant for several years. Ramsar Sites included in protected areas established according to national legislation have management bodies to which local stakeholders belong (mayors, representatives of local communities)

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

{16.5}

☒ B=No

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

{16.6}

Please select only one per square.

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

16.6 Additional information

>>> Information is regularly and promptly shared with site managers directly or through regional administrations. Information is also shared with other focal points and administrations on an ad hoc basis. ISPRA supports the Ministry of Environment for the collection of data, their analysis and dissemination on wetlands and for the definition of management indications. The ISPRA Report 153/2011 contains the indications for monitoring biodiversity and conservation measures in wetlands ecosystems. This document has been recognized by the Joint Committee for Biodiversity (established under the CBD) as a guideline for regional administrations.

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

>>> Initiatives on wetlands are carried out every year during the day on wetlands mainly by WWF (www.wwf.it/pandanews/ambiente/giornata-mondiale-delle-zone-umide-2/, <https://legambiente.it/campagna/giornata-mondiale-delle-zone-umide/>) and the Italian League for the Protection of Birds (www.lipu.it/news/giornata-mondiale-zone-umide-avviata-campagna-internazionale-la-restoration-law) and the National Biodiversity Future Center (<https://www.nbfc.it/news/giornata-mondiale-delle-zone-umide-world-wetlands-day>).

16.8 Did your country undertake any campaigns, programmes or projects to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife during the World Wetlands Days since COP14? {16.8}

☒ A=Yes

16.8 Additional information

>>> see 16.7

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

☒ A=Yes

16.9 Additional Information

>>> - www.mase.gov.it/pagina/zone-umide-di-importanza-internazionale-ai-sensi-della-convenzione-di-ramsar
- <http://sgil.isprambiente.it/zoneumide/>

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}

☒ A=Yes

17.1 Additional information

>>> For instance, the project "Lempa Vivo: Sustainable and Participatory Management of Ecosystems Located in the 4 Wetlands of the Lempa River Water Corridor" in El Salvador.

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}

☒ A=Yes

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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}

☒ D=Planned

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}

☒ D=Planned

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>

18.3 Additional information

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

>>> Invitation to participate in an event at the occasion of the 2023 World Wetland Day. In 2023, FAO also

organized a field visit of Chinese partners to an Italian wetland (Lago di Nazzano).

18.4 Additional information

>>> Not at the national level, unknown at the local level.

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

☒ C=Partially

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

☒ A=Yes

18.7 Additional information

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

>>> Italy is party to AEWA and to both EUROBATs agreements.

Target 19

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20]

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

☒ A=Yes

19.1 Additional information

>>> About the capacity to update RIS sheets.

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

☒ C=Partially

19.2 Additional Information

>>> Yes, the RIS template was commented, translated into Italian and partially pre-filled. Italy has also engaged with the Working Group on RIS Updating to promote the simplification of the RIS template and process to reduce the need for capacity development by lowering the burden on site managers and national administrations. Information about training opportunities has been shared regularly and widely.

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

☒ A=Yes

19.3 Additional information

>>> Undergraduate and postgraduate courses at several universities include modules on wetlands. Some aspects are covered also in the science programs of primary and secondary education.

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ X=Unknown

b) at other wetlands

☒ X=Unknown

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

☒ A=Yes

19.5 Additional information

>>> As bench-marking for this report.

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

Goal 1

Target 1: Wetland benefits

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

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 2: Water Use

Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 7, Sustainable Development Goal 6, Indicator 6.3.1]

Target 2: Water Use - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 2: Water Use - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 2: Water Use - National Targets

>>> The targets are established in the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.

Target 2: Water Use - Planned activity

>>> The planned activities on water management are reported in the RBMP.

Target 4: Invasive alien species

Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6]

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Priority

☒ D=Not relevant

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 4: Invasive alien species - National Targets

>>> Pathways of introduction in Italy have been analyzed and prioritized (the document in Italian is available here:

www.specieinvasive.isprambiente.it/images/lineeguida/Analisi_e_prioritizzazione_delle_Pathways_art_13_reg_143_14_ISPRA.pdf). The two priority pathways identified are pet, aquarium terrarium species and ornamental plants. According to art.13 of Reg. EU 1143/14, two national action plans on the priority pathways have been developed and adopted in order to reduce the introduction in natural environments. The target established is the reduction of 30% of the new introduction of invasive alien species commercialized as pet or for ornamental purposes into nature.

All the documents cited are available here: www.mase.gov.it/pagina/piano-pathways-animale-da-compagnia-e-piante-di-interesse-acquaristico-e-terrario.

The management target for the priority alien species (i.e. the species of Union concern) are defined in each national management plans in order to minimize the impacts on biodiversity.

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Planned activity

>>> Implementation of the action plans and managements plans officially adopted. For the last 3 years the. The Regions, autonomous provinces and National Parks are responsible for the implementation of the management measures; in 2023, the Ministry of Environment funded these activities with 5 million of euro each year for 3 years.

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Outcomes achieved by 2021

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

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

>>> No data is available yet.

Goal 2

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites

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

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Priority

☒ B=Medium

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Resourcing

☒ D=Severely limiting

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - National Targets

>>> The targets are established in particular by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC which establishes that all water bodies must reach a "good" ecological status. Furthermore, the directive provides that, in protected areas, including Ramsar zones, in the case where there are species and habitats linked to aquatic ecosystems that require a higher level of quality, measures must be defined to reach a "high" ecological status. Further details are available in the guidelines developed by a working group established by the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (www.mase.gov.it/pagina/linee-guida-lindicazione-di-obiettivi-specifici-i-corpi-idrici-ricadenti-nelle-aree-protette).

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Planned activity

>>> Collect data on the ecological status of water bodies and the status of the populations of flora and fauna species present in the Ramsar Sites that will be provided to the management bodies through the compilation of the RIS and specific reports.

Target 7: Sites at risk

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

Target 7: Sites at risk - Priority

☒ B=Medium

Target 7: Sites at risk - Resourcing

☒ D=Severely limiting

Target 7: Sites at risk - Additional Information

>>> ISPRA periodically calculates an indicator of land consumption in Ramsar Sites. In 2023 it emerged that in most Italian Ramsar Sites there are forms of anthropic pressure connected both to the presence of settlements and infrastructure, and to agricultural activity. In 45 cases out of 66, agricultural areas occupy more than half of the territory of the Ramsar Site. Although urbanized areas and infrastructure have a smaller extension, they contribute to the pressure to which Ramsar Sites are subject, in fact, about a quarter are affected by a high or very high level of pressure from urbanization. 68% of the total wetlands fall within classes III (high pressure) and IV (very high pressure), underlining the precarious conditions of equilibrium in which these environments are found. Only 15% of sites fall into class I (low pressure) and 17% into class II (medium pressure) (more information: <https://indicatoriambientali.isprambiente.it/it/aree-tutelate/pressione-antropica-zone-umide-dimportanza-internazionale>).

Goal 3

Target 8: National wetland inventories

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

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Resourcing

☒ D=Severely limiting

Target 8: National wetland inventories - National Targets

>>> To create an inventory of all types of wetlands with tools that allow for periodic monitoring of the extent and state of wetlands.

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Planned activity

>>> To create an inventory with satellite data that allows monitoring over time of the extension and state of wetlands. The EO4WI (Earth Observation for Wetland Inventory) project of ESA and Tour de Valat is currently underway and has included Italy as a pilot area in which to create the inventory with satellite data.

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Additional Information

>>> ISPRA is collaborating with ISTAT and other institutions to collect data relating to different types of ecosystems, including wetlands, as part of an activity aimed at counting ecosystems and mapping them, to monitor their extension and state, in order to evaluate the ecosystem services, they provide for different human activities. This activity is also aimed at responding to the requirements of the European Regulation on European Environmental Accounts no. 691/2011.

Target 11: Wetland functions

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

Target 11: Wetland functions - Priority

☒ B=Medium

Target 11: Wetland functions - Resourcing

☒ D=Severely limiting

Target 11: Wetland functions - Planned activity

>>> An institutional activity is underway aimed at evaluating the ecosystem services of wetlands too (Task force on Ecosystem Accounts of ISPRA-ISTAT).

Target 11: Wetland functions - Additional Information

>>> ISPRA is collaborating with ISTAT and other institutions to collect data relating to different types of ecosystems, including wetlands, as part of an activity aimed at counting ecosystems and mapping them, to monitor their extension and state, to evaluate the ecosystem services, that they provide for different human activities. This activity is also aimed at responding to the requirements of the European Regulation on European Environmental Accounts no. 691/2011.

Target 12: Restoration

Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 2, 8, and 11]

Target 12: Restoration - National Targets

>>> Defined according to the Nature Restoration Law approved in June 2024.

Target 12: Restoration - Planned activity

>>> The restoration law approved in June 2024 provides for the restoration of wetlands and, to this aim, the definition of a national plan on nature restoration.

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability

Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10, 14 and 15]

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - National Targets

>>> The targets are defined by the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), for the achievement of good ecological status of water bodies, by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) of the European Union, for the achievement of a favorable conservation status, in particular of species and habitats linked to the aquatic environment.

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Planned activity

>>> Activities aimed at achieving the objectives of the aforementioned directives.

Goal 4

Target 15: Regional Initiatives

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

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Additional Information

>>> Italy is not currently in a position to provide regular financial support to the Ramsar Initiative for the Mediterranean (MedWet).

Target 18: International cooperation

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.

Target 18: International cooperation - Priority

☒ B=Medium

