

RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

Help desk

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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

>>> Attached

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

20250206-submission of the COP National Report .pdf

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

>>> Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), Department of Water Resources

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

>>> Director General of Department of Water Resources

Mailing address

>>> Department of Water Resources Building, Sidamduan Village, Chanthabouly district, Vientiane Capital Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR. P.O. Box: 7864

Telephone

>>> +85621 241744 ext 114

Email

>>> oudomsack.philavong@gmail.com

Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title

>>> Mr. Oudomsack Philavong, Director General of Department of Water Resources

Mailing address

>>> Department of Water Resources Building, Sidamduan Village, Chanthabouly district, Vientiane Capital Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.

Telephone

>>> +85620 55817947

Email

>>> oudomsack.philavong@gmail.com

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

Name and title

>>> Mr. Singthong PHANTHAMALA, Director of River Basin Planning and Development Division

Name of organisation

>>> Department of Water Resources

Mailing address

>>> Department of Water Resources Building, Sidamduan Village, Chanthabouly district, Vientiane Capital Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR. Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR. P.O. Box: 7864

Tel: +85621 241744 ext 114

Fax: +85621 218737

Telephone

Email

>>> stptml@yahoo.com

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

Name and title

>>> Ms Chindavanh SOURIYAPHACK, Deputy Head Division

Name of organisation

>>> Department of Water Resources

Mailing address

>>> Department of Water Resources Building, Sidamduan Village, Chanthabouly district, Vientiane Capital Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR. Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR. P.O. Box: 7864

Tel: +85621 241744 ext 114

Fax: +85621 218737

Telephone

>>> +8562028970796

Fmail

>>> chindavanh.one@gmail.com

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

Name and title

>>> XIONG Lee

Name of organisation

>>> IUCN Lao PDR

Mailing address

>>> 391/24 Bourichane Rd,

Naxay village, Saysettha District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.

Tel: +856 21 417455, Fax: +56 21 417456

Telephone

>>> +8562055354289

Email

>>> lee.xiong@iucn.org

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

Name and title

>>> TBC

Name of organization

>>> TBC

Mailing address

>>> TBC

Phone

>>> TBC

Email

>>> TBC

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)

>>> Successfully designated new wetlands as Ramsar Sites, increasing the country's contribution to global wetland conservation and showcasing the ecological and cultural importance of these areas

2)

>>> Integration of Wetland Considerations into National Policies: Incorporated wetland management principles into national development plans, particularly in sectors like water resource management and agriculture, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals.

3)

>>> Enhanced the participation of local and indigenous communities in wetland conservation through awareness campaigns and participatory management approaches, respecting their traditional knowledge and practices

4)

>>> Conducted training sessions for wetland managers and stakeholders, improving their ability to manage and monitor wetlands effectively, including applying international best practices

5)

>>> Fostered collaboration with international organizations, NGOs, and neighboring countries to share knowledge and resources, contributing to the development of cross-border wetland conservation initiatives.

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

1)

>>> Land encroachment, illegal hunting, over-harvesting

2)

>>> Invasive species, habitat degradation, hydrological changes

31

>>> Climate change impacts and pollution

4)

>>> Lack of reliable/ongoing budget for long term planning & implementation of management activities

5)

>>> Lack of capacity/technical support and consultation

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

1)

>>> Enhancing Wetland Protection and Management

2)

>>> Identify and nominate new wetlands of international importance, focusing on biodiversity-rich areas and those critical for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

3)

>>> Strengthen the integration of wetland conservation into key national policies related to water resource management, agriculture, urban planning, and climate resilience

4)

>>> Conduct targeted capacity-building programs for local communities, government agencies, and NGOs to enhance their ability to sustainably manage wetlands while promoting the wise use of resources.

- 5)
- >>> Establish a robust national wetland inventory and monitoring system to track the status and trends of wetlands, supported by research into ecosystem services, climate adaptation strategies, and biodiversity conservation
- D. Does the Administrative Authority have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention Secretariat?
- >>> Capacity-Building Support: Provide tailored training programs and technical workshops for wetland managers, policymakers, and stakeholders to enhance their understanding of Ramsar principles and best practices in wetland conservation.
- Funding and Resource Mobilization: Assist in identifying and securing international funding opportunities and partnerships for wetland management, restoration, and sustainable use projects.
- Monitoring and Reporting Tools: Support the development and application of standardized tools and methodologies for monitoring wetland health and preparing national reports, including assistance with the Ramsar Online Reporting System (ORS).
- 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)?
- >>> Capacity Development: Laos could establish specific training programs in collaboration with IOPs to enhance technical expertise in wetland monitoring, ecosystem services valuation, and climate adaptation.
- Research and Data Sharing: Partnering with IOPs can help Laos improve data collection on wetlands, enabling evidence-based decision-making.
- Community-Based Wetland Management: Partnerships focused on sustainable livelihood practices for local communities could align with the Ramsar wise-use principle.
- Funding Mobilization: IOPs could assist in identifying and accessing international funding for wetland projects, particularly through mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) or the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- F. In accordance with paragraph 21 of Resolution XIII.18 on Gender and wetlands, please provide a short description about the balance between genders participating in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research.
- >>> In accordance with Paragraph 21 of Resolution XIII.18 on Gender and Wetlands, achieving a balance between genders in wetland-related decisions, programmes, and research is essential for equitable and sustainable wetland management. This balance ensures that the perspectives, knowledge, and needs of both women and men are adequately considered, fostering inclusive governance
- G. On the basis of your indications above, list possible areas where change is necessary for the achievement of gender equality.
- >>> Mainstream Gender in Policies, Capacity Building and Education, Economic and Social Empowerment Research and Data Collection, Community Engagement and Awareness, Financial and Institutional Support, Monitoring and Accountability
- H. Please describe lessons learnt in the context of wetlands and gender equality work in your country. >>> In rural communities in Laos, women play a significant role in wetland-related activities such as fishing, farming, and harvesting non-timber products. Recognizing their contributions is essential for designing effective and sustainable wetland management strategies. Projects that incorporate women's knowledge of local ecosystems and resource management have demonstrated better outcomes in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Community-driven wetland management programs in Laos have shown success when they actively include women as stakeholders. Engaging women in participatory approaches strengthens the integration of gender perspectives and promotes equity in resource allocation.
- I. If possible, please list gender-related policies, strategies and action plans in place relevant to wetlands in your country.
- >>> 1. National Strategy for the Advancement of Women (NSAW) 2021–2025
- 2. Law on the Development and Protection of Women (2004)
- 3. Gender Equality Law (2019)
- 4. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2016–2025
- 5. National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) 2021–2025
- 6. Water and Water Resources Law (2017)
- 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 Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Lao Women's Union (LWU), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF),

Wetlands International, BirdLife International, UN Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),Asian Development Bank (ADB)

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

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

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

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

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

Target 1

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14]

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

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

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

Target 2

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

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

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

 □ D=Planned
- 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
- >>> Environmental flow guideline developed by MONRE
- 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
- >>> Beung kait ngong and Xechamphone Ramsar sites management plans
- 2.4 Have the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12) been used/applied in decision-making processes? {2.3}
- ☑ A=Yes
- 2.5 Have projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands been developed {2.4}

 ☑ A=Yes
- 2.5 Additional Information
- >>> Lower Mekong Basin Wetland Management and Conservation Project-MRWP
- Ecosystem Conservation through Integrated Landscape Management in Laos (ECILL)
- 2.6 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? {2.8}
 ☑ C=Partially
- 2.6 Additional Information
- >>> Wetlands/Ponds in Vientiane Capital

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}

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

 Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Sites	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes

b) Wetlands in general	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
	⊔ A= ĭes

3.2 Additional information

>>> Eco-Tourism Initiatives in Wetland Areas, Private sector Investment in Sustainable practices, Sustainable Agriculture and Aquaculture, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Collaboration with NGOs and Government

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

☑ C=Partially

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

☑ B=No

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? $\{4.1\}$ \square B=No
- 4.2 Has your country adopted any national policies, strategies, or guidelines on invasive species control and management that are relevant for wetlands? {4.2} ☑ B=No
- 4.3. Has your country successfully controlled through management actions invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems? {4.3}

☑ F=Fewer than #

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

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

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

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

Target 5

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

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

- 5.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? $\{5.1\}$ \square A=Yes
- 5.1 Additional information

>>> Wetland Decree 2023

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

☑ E=# Sites

>>> 2

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

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

C=Partially

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

☑ E=# Sites

>>> 2

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

☑ E=# Sites

>>> 2

5.7 Additional information

For example give the name and official number of the Site or Sites. >>> Beung kait ngong and Xechamphone Ramsar sites

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.

>>> Data Availability and Accuracy, Ecological Complexity and Lack of Expertise, Financial and Resource Constraints

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
- 7.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? $\{7.2\}$ \square B=No

Section 3 - Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

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

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

Target 8

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

8.1 Does your country have a National Wetland Inventory (NWI)? {8.1}
☑ C=In Progress

8.1 Additional information

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

>>> Basic information of	on Wetlands have been surveyed nationwide	
8.2 If your country h ☑ C=In Progress	nas an NWI, has it been updated in the last decade [2014-2024]? {8.2}	
8.3 How often is the ☑ C=Not updated	e NWI updated?	
8.4 Is wetland inver ☑ A=Yes	ntory data and information publicly available? {8.4}	
8.6 Inland Wetlands	total (km2)	
8.7 How has the eco	ological character of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since COP14? {8.5}	
	s the combination of the ecosystem components, processes and benefits/services that and at a given point in time. er square.	
a) Ramsar Sites	☐ P=Status improved ☐ O=No change ☐ N=Status deteriorated	
b) All wetlands in your country	□ P=Status improved □ O=No change □ N=Status deteriorated	
a) Marine/coastal	□ 5=major improvement □ 4=improvement □ 3=no change □ 2=deterioration	
b) Inland	☐ 1=major deterioration ☐ 5=major improvement ☐ 4=improvement ☐ 3=no change ☐ 2=deterioration ☐ 1=major deterioration	
c) Human-made	□ 5=major improvement □ 4=improvement □ 3=no change □ 2=deterioration □ 1=major deterioration	
	nain needs in developing or updating an NWI to suport SDG Indicator 6.6.1 reporting fo and status and trends? Please select below. {8.7}	
a) Access to data and data acquisition standards		
b) Wetland delineation methods and approaches		
c) Habitat classifications		
d) Standardization in data interpretation methods		

e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	
f) Resources	V
g) Relevant skills	V
h) Data collection and mapping	V
i) Collaboration	
j) Others	

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

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

Target 9

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

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

- 9.1 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
- >>> Wetland Decree
- 9.2 Since COP14 have any amendments to existing legislation or policies been made to reflect commitments under the Convention on Wetlands? {9.2}
 ☑ C=In Progress
- 9.2 Additional information
- >>> Wetland Management Strategy is being developed and will be finalized in December 2024
- 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
- >>> We incorporate wetland conservation and management into national water policies, including the Water and Water Resources Law, River Basin Management Decree, Wetland Management Decree, and River Basin

Management Plans.

- 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
- 9.5 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
- >>> Wetland Decree, River Basin Management Decree
- 9.6 Has your country included wetland actions in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other related national policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation?

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

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

- 9.9 Has your country made efforts to conserve and wisely use urban and peri-urban wetlands in line with Resolutions XI.11 and XIV.10? $\{9.8\}$ \square A=Yes
- 9.10 Has your country made efforts to conserve small wetlands in line with Resolution XIII.21 and XIII.15? {9.9}
- ☑ A=Yes

Target 10

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

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

 ☑ C1= Partially
- 10.3 Have case studies on the participation of indigenous people in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands been compiled? (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21) $\{10.1\}$ \square A=Yes
- 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 $\{10.3\}$

10.5 Additional information

>>> Fishing Practices: Communities traditionally use sustainable fishing methods such as bamboo traps (lop) and seasonal fishing bans during spawning periods to ensure fish populations regenerate.

Flood Management: Local farmers understand the seasonal flooding patterns and adapt their agricultural practices, such as planting rice varieties suited to flood conditions.

Farmers in wetland areas practice integrated rice-fish farming systems, which improve soil fertility and provide additional protein sources without overexploiting wetlands.

Target 11

Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. {1.4.} [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 11, 12 and 13]

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {11.1}

☑ A=Yes

11.1 Additional information

If "yes" or "partially", please indicate how many Ramsar Sites and their names >>> The Bueng Kiat Ngong (BKN) wetland in Champasak Province has been evaluated for its ecosystem services, including biodiversity support, water storage, and contributions to local livelihoods.

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

11.3 Since COP14 have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to other benefits for human well-being been implemented?

☑ C=Partially

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

☑ A=Yes

11.4 Additional information

If "yes" or "partially", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names >>> The Bueng Kiat Ngong (BKN) and Xechamphone Wetland Ramsar Site

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

☑ A=Yes

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?
☑ B=No

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

☑ B=No

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

☑ C=Partially

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

☑ A=Yes

12.4 Additional Information

If "yes" or "partially", please indicate the progress in implementation

>>> Under the Peatland Mekong Project, guidelines on peatland management have been developed

Target 13

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10 and 14]

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

13.2 Additional information

>>> The application of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) practices to policies, programs, and plans impacting wetlands is not yet widespread, though efforts exist to integrate such assessments into decision-making processes

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.

>>> Laos has been involved in the development and implementation of a Ramsar Regional Initiative. It is part of the Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI), which includes Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Established in 2016 and supported by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), IBRRI aims to coordinate the implementation of the Ramsar Convention's objectives across the region

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

15.2 Additional information

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

>>> Laos has supported and participated in the development of regional wetland training and research centers. As a member of the Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI), Laos collaborates with Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam to promote wetland conservation and capacity building across the region

Target 16

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 21].

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

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

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

16.3 Does the Contracting Party {16.3}

Please select only one per square.

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

16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral national Ramsar/wetlands committee? {16.4} ☑ A=Yes 16.5 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a national Ramsar/wetlands committee? {16.5} A=Yes 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: Please select only one per square. ☑ D=Planned a) Ramsar Site managers □ C=Partially \square B=No □ A=Yes b) other MEA national ☑ D=Planned focal points ☐ C=Partially □ B=No □ A=Yes ☑ D=Planned c) other ministries. departments and ☐ C=Partially agencies \square B=No □ 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 >>> Laos has organized events for World Wetlands Day, World Wetland and Peatland, which often include awareness-raising activities led by both government agencies and NGOs. For instance, these events highlight the importance of wetlands in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. 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 16.9 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {18.5} ☑ C=Partially 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 17.2 [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?	□ Z=Not applicable □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) from non-national or	☐ Z=Not applicable
multilateral development	☐ B=No
assistance agencies?	☑ 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

Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels

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

☑ A=Yes

18.1 Additional information

>>> The Ramsar National Focal Points coordinate with focal points of MEAs such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

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}
☑ C=Partially

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

a) UNEP	
b) FAO	∇
c) UNECE	
d) UNFCCC	
e) Global Environment Facility	V
f) UNDP	∇
g) UNESCO	∇
h) World Health Organization	
i) World Meteorological Organization	
ј) ІТТО	
k) The Convention's IOPs	

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}
☑ D=Planned

18.5 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? $\{18.6\}$ \square B=No

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

☑ A=Yes

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? $\{19.1\}$

☑ D=Planned

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

☑ C=Partially

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

☑ C=Partially

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

☑ E=# opportunities

>>> 2

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

☑ B=No

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

Goal 1

Target 1: Wetland benefits

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

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Resourcing
☑ C=Limiting

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
☑ C=Limiting

Target 2: Water Use - Outcomes achieved by 2021

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

Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in October 2024 >>>> By 2024, Laos made significant strides in enhancing sustainable water use, which contributed to the achievement of both the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Improved Water Resource Management (IWRM) at the National and Local Levels: Laos has continued to implement Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) strategies, focusing on sustainable water usage across River Basins. IWRM encourages coordination between different water uses (e.g., agriculture, industry, domestic use) and aims to maintain water quality while supporting livelihoods. This has been supported by projects aimed at improving water availability in critical wetland areas such as XeChamphone and Beung Kiat Ngong

Target 3: Public and private sectors

Public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 7, 10, 15, 16 and 18]

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Resourcing
☑ C=Limiting

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Outcomes achieved by 2021

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

Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in October 2024 >>> By 2024, Laos made notable progress in engaging both public and private sectors in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development initiatives. Key outcomes include: Private Sector Engagement in Sustainable Practices, Government Policies and Regulations, Public Sector Capacity Building and Education, Collaboration Between Public and Private Sectors. By engaging both the public and private sectors, Laos is advancing its efforts to integrate biodiversity conservation into economic development, thus contributing to global biodiversity targets and the broader sustainable development agenda.

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

☑ B=Medium

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Resourcing
☑ C=Limiting

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
☑ C=Limiting

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Outcomes achieved by 2021

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

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

>>> Management plans for Ramsar Sites like Xe Champhone and Beung Kiat Ngong were developed and refined to protect the ecological character of these wetlands. These plans focused on sustainable land use, water management, and biodiversity protection, Local communities were actively involved in the management of Ramsar Sites, helping to ensure sustainable use of wetland resources. Community-based approaches helped maintain the ecological integrity of these areas while providing local benefits such as sustainable fishing and eco-tourism. By 2024, Laos continued to improve the ecological character of its Ramsar Sites, with several important developments:

- 1. Updated and Expanded Ramsar Site Management Plans
- 2. Increased Stakeholder Collaboration
- 3. Incorporation of Climate Change Resilience Measures

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 9: Wise Use

The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 9, 10 and 15]

Target 9: Wise Use - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 9: Wise Use - Resourcing
☑ D=Severely limiting

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge

The traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Priority

☑ B=Medium

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Resourcing
☐ C=Limiting

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

☑ C=Limiting

Target 12: Restoration

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

Target 12: Restoration - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 12: Restoration - Resourcing
☑ D=Severely limiting

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability

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

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Resourcing
☐ C=Limiting

Goal 4

Target 15: Regional Initiatives

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

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Priority

☑ B=Medium

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Resourcing
☐ C=Limiting

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use

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

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Resourcing $\ \square$ C=Limiting

Target 17: Financial and other resources

Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the Convention's fourth Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Resourcing $\ \square$ C=Limiting

Target 18: International cooperationInternational cooperation is strengthened at all levels.

Target 18: International cooperation - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 18: International cooperation - Resourcing ☑ C=Limiting

Target 19: Capacity Building

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

Target 19: Capacity Building - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 19: Capacity Building - Resourcing $\ \square$ C=Limiting