



RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

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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>

>>> Latvia

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Ramsar letter 2024.pdf](#)

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

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Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

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Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

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

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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

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

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Name of organisation

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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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Name of organization

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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)
>>> Based on national habitat mapping data, national habitat protection objectives have been established, including those related to wetland habitats.
- 2)
>>> Various projects are implemented in connection with the management of wetlands, including measures for species and habitats protection, restoration and recovery of the natural water level.
- 3)
>>> Development, update and implementation of management plans for Ramsar sites.
- 4)
>>> A substantial number of diverse educational initiatives have been carried out to enhance the level of knowledge regarding wetlands.
- 5)
>>> -

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

- 1)
>>> Insufficient funding for continued and sustainable management planning and implementation in wetlands.
- 2)
>>> The forestry sector is increasingly focused on restoring and creating new forest drainage systems and forest roads. These activities fragment forest areas and alter the hydrological regime, posing a threat to wetlands across the entire country.
- 3)
>>> Economic interests of forestry and peat extraction
- 4)
>>> The intensified development of alternative energy sources (such as wind farms and solar parks) poses a potential impact on wetland ecosystems.
- 5)
>>> -

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

- 1)
>>> Setting of sites specific conservation objectives for Natura 2000 areas (including Ramsar territories).
- 2)
>>> Identification and implementation of management requirements for wetland related habitats in protected areas in order to ensure their favorable conservation status.
- 3)
>>> Development, update and implementation of management plans for wetlands.
- 4)
>>> Public awareness raising on wetlands
- 5)
>>> -

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

>>> no

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

>>> No comment

F. In accordance with paragraph 21 of Resolution XIII.18 on Gender and wetlands, please provide a short description about the balance between genders participating in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research.

>>> There are no gender inequalities in the context of participating in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research.

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

>>> Not applicable

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

>>> In relation to work with wetlands, no gender inequality has been observed.

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

>>> Not applicable

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).

>>> There are no specific examples or actions to support youth participation in the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan or in wetlands management.

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

>>> Nature Protection Agency
Ministry of Climate and Energy

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

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

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

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

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

Target 1

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14]

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

1.1 Additional information

>>> a) Wetland protection issues are integrated into The Environmental Policy Guidelines for 2021–2027. These guidelines aim to enhance the overall environmental quality, promote biodiversity conservation, and address climate change challenges. Biodiversity conservation is one of the key focus area and includes - implementing

measures to protect ecosystems, habitats, and species, ensuring a favorable conservation status.

c) Wetlands protection issues are incorporated in River Basin Management plans elaborated in accordance to Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).

d) Maritime Spatial Plan (MSP) for internal sea waters, territorial sea and exclusive economic zone of Latvia 2030 is a national level long-term spatial development planning document that defines the use of the sea, considering a terrestrial part that is functionally interlinked with the sea and co-ordinating interests of various sectors and local governments in use of the sea. MSP is approved in 2019.

e) National long-term thematic plan for the development of public infrastructure on the Baltic Sea coast. The plan is a territorial development planning document for the development of the entire coastal public infrastructure network and attraction of investments until 2030, focusing on one of the most important areas of economic development on the coast - the development of tourism and recreation. Direct impacts to wetlands of the Framework are associated with coastal infrastructure projects that may affect nearby surface water body water quality, as well as groundwater quality and level.

h) Wetland protection issues are integrated into Environmental Policy Framework (2021-2027). These guidelines aim to enhance the overall environmental quality, promote biodiversity conservation, and address climate change challenges. Biodiversity conservation is one of the key focus area and includes - implementing measures to protect ecosystems, habitats, and species, ensuring a favorable conservation status.

j) Latvia's Tourism Development Action Plan 2021-2027. identifies nature tourism as one of the strategic goal.

p) Nature conservation, including wetland conservation requirements, is integrated into river basin management plans.

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}

☒ B=No

2.1 Additional Information

>>> -

2.2 Have assessments of environmental flow been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands? {2.2}

☒ C=Partially

2.2 Additional Information

>>> -

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

☒ C=Partially

2.3 Additional Information

>>> The objectives that have been set for Ramsar Sites are taken into account when developing river basin management plans.

The use of pesticides is restricted within the buffer zone of the Teici and Pelecare Ramsar site.

All Ramsar sites have drainage restrictions.

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

☒ B=No

2.4 Additional Information

>>> -

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}

☒ C=Underway

2.5 Additional Information

>>> Project LIFE GoodWater IP has prepared a methodology for assessing a socio-economic value of flood-planes in comparison to using the flood-planes as drained agricultural lands. This strives to prove that in some cases the ecological services of the area are of higher value than profit from agriculture.

As part of the Interreg project "Public-Private Governance of Rivers and Wetlands Restoration as Blue-Green Infrastructure" (RIWET) will collect examples of good practice to share knowledge about river and wetland restoration.

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

☒ C=Partially

2.6 Additional Information

>>> Mostly as pilot and demo cases.

Target 3

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

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

3.1 Has your country put in place policies, including incentives, guidelines or other instruments to encourage the private sector to apply the wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in activities and investments related to wetlands? {3.1}

☒ C=Partially

3.1 Additional Information

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

>>> The principles of wise management of wetlands are being promoted by involving local people in practical wetland management activities (for example, haymaking, reed and shrub cutting)

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

Please select only one per square.

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

3.2 Additional information

>>> In the RAMSAR areas (Teici Nature Reserve, Kemeris National Park, Lubana Wetland Nature Reserve), a total of 13 cleanup events have taken place with 376 participants (of which 18% are students and young people), who engaged in maintenance work for calcareous grasslands, wet meadows, and reed mowing in the lake. In other wetlands in Latvia, cleanup events have been implemented for the maintenance of calcareous grasslands, wet meadows, reed mowing in the lake, riverbank restoration, and waste removal. In total, 23 cleanup events have occurred with 732 participants (of which 12% are students and young people).

In the management of the wetlands - floodplain meadows of Lake Kanieris and Kemeris Bog Ramsar site, the local NGO Kemeris National Park Foundation is actively involved, ensuring the maintenance of natural grassland areas covering approximately 500 hectares.

Private landowners manage the meadows in the Lubana Wetland complex Ramsar site. In March 2022, a reed mowing cleanup event was organized near Rezekne River mouth into lake Lubana (Lubana Wetland complex). Local recommendations have been evaluated and integrated into the nature conservation plan for the "Lubana Wetland" nature reserve.

Local service providers have been engaged in the management of the meadows in the Teici and Pelecare Ramsar site and in the maintenance of nature tourism infrastructure

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

☒ C=Partially

3.3 Additional information

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

>>> The Rural Development Program provides support from EU funds for the maintenance of biologically valuable grasslands, including in the Ramsar sites.

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

☒ A=Yes

3.4 Additional Information

Please specify the actions that have been taken to remove perverse incentive measures (e.g. removal of subsidies for agricultural expansion) and provide the source links or upload the source documents here.

>>> According to the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers allocation of state and EU funding for building, reconstruction and renovation of drainage systems are not supported in Natura 2000 sites (all LV Ramsar sites are Natura 2000 sites)

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}

☒ C=Partially

4.1 Additional information

>>> According to geographical coverage all monitoring programs are created to obtain country-wide data in limited resource conditions, and none of the programs is aimed for monitoring only specific areas.

The fact sheets of EU and national invasive alien species are available, but there is no list of invasive alien species specific for wetlands prepared yet.

In the case of *Eriocheir sinensis* several research activities have been performed on the species distribution in the territory of Latvia, including coastal marine waters.

The distribution of invasive plant species *Sosnowski hogweed* *Heracleum sosnowskyi* has been mapped;

An inventory of marine invasive species has been carried out (mainly in port areas), information is available in the database AquaNIS <http://www.corpi.ku.lt/databases/index.php/aquanis>

The spread of invasive marine species *Neogobius melanostomus* and its impact on coastal habitats has been studied.

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

☒ A=Yes

4.2 Additional information

>>> Necessary amendments of national legislation for all invasive species are in process. However changes in policy will apply for whole country not for specific areas. In the future more specific division for areas could be elaborated.

The CN codes listed in Regulation (EU) 2019/1262 of 25 July 2019 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1141 to update the list of invasive alien species of Union concern are included in the TARIC measure specifically created by the European Commission for imports and are integrated into the Latvian national Integrated Tariff Management System (ITV), which is one of the customs information systems.

EU Regulation (No 1143/2014) on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species has been in force since 2014. This Regulation sets out rules to prevent, minimize and mitigate the adverse impact on biodiversity of the introduction and spread within the Union, of invasive alien species. Of the 66 species of invasive alien species in the EU there are 18 species in Latvia (11 are found in the wild). Elaboration of the action plans for eradication the most significant invasive alien species (posing the biggest threat to biodiversity and human health) will be done in the nearest future.

Programme for eradication and control of giant hogweed *Heracleum sosnowskyi* is elaborated and approved.

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

☒ E=# species

>>> 3

4.3 Additional Information

>>> National policy as well as management measures apply for whole country, it is hard to assess them specifically for wetlands.

Management measures shall be proportionate to the impact on the environment and appropriate to the specific circumstances, while also minimizing the impact on non-targeted species and their habitats and be based on an analysis of costs and benefits.

Several research activities in frame of projects will be performed in future.

E.g. currently the rapid eradication is applied in the case of *Trachemys scripta* by the "remove from nature" process where other wild species are not affected.

Voluntary observations for *Eriocheir sinensis* and fishermen activities in by-catch are in use.

The invasive plant species *Sosnowski hogweed* is the only one that has been subject to large-scale measures to combat and restrict it. It is the responsibility of landowners to restrict the distribution of this species.

Invasive species *Rosa rugosa* is being controlled through management actions in protected nature areas.

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

☒ B=No

4.4 Additional Information

>>> -

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}

☒ B=No

5.1 Additional information

>>> .

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 5

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 5

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 2

5.2 – 5.4 Additional information

>>> Management plans for Ramsar sites - Lake Kanieris and Kemeris Bog, Lake Engure, and Northern Bogs have been approved. The development of the plan for the Lubana Wetland Complex and the Pape Wetland Complex Ramsar site is currently in progress. For the Ramsar site Teicu and Pelecare Bog, the management plan covers only part of the wetland (for nature reserve 'Pelecure Bog')."

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

>>> 4

5.5 Additional information

Please provide the source links or upload the source documents here indicating the assessment tool used (e.g. Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), Resolution XII.15), and the source of the information.

>>> Developing new nature conservation plans involves evaluating the implementation level of previously planned measures and, if possible, assessing the effectiveness of these measures.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 6

5.6 Additional information

>>> Consultative boards (the aim of the boards are to promote and support cooperation between state and local government institutions, non-governmental and public organizations) are established for Pape Wetland Complex, Lake Engure, Teici and Pelecare Bogs and Lubana Wetland Complex. Consultative Boards of Kemeru National park and North Vidzemes Biosphere Reserve oversee issues related to the Ramsar site Lake Kanieris and Kemeru Bog and Northern Bogs.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 6

5.7 Additional information

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

>>> Within the framework of the national habitat mapping project, habitat mapping has also been conducted in all Ramsar sites. Detailed ecological character description has been prepared within the framework of the development of the nature conservation plans.

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.

>>> The completion and updating of the RIS (Ramsar Information Sheet) requires a large volume of detailed scientific information, which is not always easily accessible, making the information collection complex.

Target 7

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

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

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

☒ A=Yes

7.1 Additional information

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

>>> Latvian legislation includes a mechanism that allows for this. The Environmental Protection Act specifies that individuals, organizations, and groups have the right to notify public authorities and local governments about activities that could affect the quality of the environment, as well as to report on any negative environmental changes arising from those actions.

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

☒ B=No

7.2 Additional information

If “Yes” or “Some cases”, please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has **not** made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat

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?

>>> All wetland inventory data is maintained by Nature Conservation Agency and available in the Natural data management system 'OZOLS' <http://ozols.daba.gov.lv/pub>

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 national habitat mapping has been completed; however, information about the habitats is continually updated as new scientific data becomes available.

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ X=Unknown

8.3 Additional information

>>> Comprehensive habitat mapping is not currently planned; however, data on specific habitats is being updated in areas where new nature protection plans or other projects are being developed.

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

☒ A=Yes

8.4 Additional information

For example if "partially" or "planned" by when will the data/information be made public?

>>> All wetland inventory data is available and maintained by Nature Conservation Agency in the Natural data management system 'OZOLS' <http://ozols.daba.gov.lv/pub>

Information on peat bogs and peat resources in Latvia is available in the data base (http://www2.meteo.lv/kudras_inovacijas/login.php) maintained by State limited Liability Company "Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre".

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

>>> Data maintenance is ensured by the Nature Conservation Agency, which includes updating information obtained from nature protection plans, monitoring data, and information gathered through various local projects.

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

>>> 4790.88

8.6 According to the Convention's definition and classification of wetlands, the disaggregated information on wetland extent is as follows

Note: The minimum information that should be provided is the total area of wetlands for each of the three major categories; "marine/coastal", "inland" and "human-made".

If the data on inventories are partial or not complete, use the available information to fill in the form, specifying if it is

partial or not complete.

Guidance on information on national wetland extent can be consulted at: <https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidance-on-information-on-national-wetland-extent>.

>>> In the 'marine/coastal' and 'inland' categories, the following habitats corresponding to the Habitats Directive are included:

1. Marine and coastal halophytic (brackish) habitats: 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines, 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks, 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts, 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand, 1630* Boreal Baltic coastal meadows, 1640 Boreal Baltic sandy beaches with perennial vegetation, 2190 Humid dune slacks;
2. Freshwater habitats: 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorellatea uniflorae and/Isoetes-Nanojuncetea, 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp., 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation, 3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds, 3190* Lakes of gypsum karst, 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation, 3270 Rivers with muddy banks with Chenopodium rubri p.p. and Bidens p.p. vegetation.
3. Mire habitats: 7110* Active raised bogs, 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration, 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs, 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion, 7160 Fennoscandian mineral-rich springs and springfens, 7210* Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae, 7220* Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneuron), 7230 Alkaline fens;
4. Forest habitats: 9080* Fennoscandian deciduous, swamp forests, 91D0*Bog woodland, 91E0* Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae).
5. Grassland habitats: 6410 Molinia meadows in calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae), 6450 Northern Boreal alluvial meadows.

There are no data on the area of human-made habitats in Latvia.

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km ²)
A -- Permanent shallow marine waters	-
B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds	-
C -- Coral reefs	-
D -- Rocky marine shores	-
E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores	-
F -- Estuarine waters	-
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	-
Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs	-
H -- Intertidal marshes	-
I -- Intertidal forested wetlands	-
J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons	-
K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons	-
Zk(a) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	-

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km²)

>>> 665

8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
L -- Permanent inland deltas	-
M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls	-
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks	-
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes	-
P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes	-
Q -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes	-
R -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats	-
Sp -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	-
Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	-
Tp -- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools	-
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils	-
U -- Non-forested peatlands	-
Va -- Alpine wetlands	-
Vt -- Tundra wetlands	-
W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands	-
Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	-
Xp -- Forested peatlands	-
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.	-
Zg -- Geothermal wetlands	-
Zk(b) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	-

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

>>> 4125.69

8.6 Human-made wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
1 -- Aquaculture ponds.	-
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)

>>> 0

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

8.7 Additional Information

>>> -

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

>>> Comprehensive assessment will be available in 2025 within the report on the Habitats Directive.

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}

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

8.9 Additional Information

e.g explain others as referred to in (j)

>>> The classification and mapping of wetland habitats are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive, and the availability of this data according to other classifiers is limited.

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

	Ye s
a) Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Relevant skills	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Data interpretation and communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Collaboration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Others	<input type="checkbox"/>

8.10 Additional Information

>>> Inadequate financial and administrative resources, as well as a lack of capacity, make it hard to carry out COP mandates effectively.

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}

☒ B=No

9.1 Additional information

>>> -

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

>>> In 2023, 74 new nature reserves were established for the protection of wetlands (wet forests) (covering approximately 20,000 hectares) by making the amendments to the Cabinet of Ministers regulations on nature reserves.

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

>>> One of the Water Law aims is to establish such a system for the protection and management of surface water and groundwater which among others prevents the deterioration, protects and improves the condition of wetlands.

Our legislation determines that floodplain must be included in flood zone to which building restrictions apply. Water basin management plans (2022-2027) have been developed and approved.

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}

☒ B=No

9.4 Additional information

>>> -

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

☒ C=Partially

9.5 Additional information

>>> In updated National Energy and climate plan 2021 – 2030 Latvia has included measures like restoration of wetland forest habitats in organic soils on agricultural lands and recultivation of former peatlands.

In Latvian National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change until 2030 Latvia has included such measures as Conduct studies on the preservation of the existing constructed wetlands and creation of new constructed wetlands, and also promote the creation and maintenance of constructed wetlands, particularly in areas where agricultural land dominates.

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

>>> On 16 October 2023 the European Union (EU) submitted the update of the nationally determined contribution (NDC) of the EU and its Member States. It refers to the EU net greenhouse gas removals binding target of 310 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. The geographical scope of the target is now the complete area covered by managed land in the Union, including wetlands from 2026. Each Member State (including Latvia) has a binding national target for 2030 for the increase of net greenhouse gas removals, which together will deliver the collective EU target of 310 Mt CO₂ net removals.

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

>>> -

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) climate change	<input type="checkbox"/> C=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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

>>> -

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}

☒ B=No

9.9 Additional information

>>> -

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

>>> National habitat inventory data are available for public authorities in decision making process as well as for landowners and nature managers. Landowners are informed about the habitats (including small scale wetland habitats) identified in their property.

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 accordance with the regulations for developing nature plans, local communities
In line with the regulations for developing nature management plans, local communities are one of the target groups involved in the process of creating and carrying out management measures. There is no specific regulatory framework that governs only the involvement of local communities or indigenous in management activities.

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

☒ A=Yes

10.2 Additional Information

>>> The regulations for the development of nature management plans require an evaluation of cultural values

and traditional knowledge of the territory. This ensures that these aspects are considered during the planning process, even though there is no dedicated set of guidelines for their integration.

10.3 Have case studies on the participation of indigenous people in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands been compiled? (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21) {10.1}

☒ A=Yes

10.3 Additional information

>>> Aspects of local culture are considered when planning hay-making events on the shores of Lake Kanieris (Lake Kanieris and Kemeris Bog Ramsar site). During each event, the organizers provide information about the history of managing the area's natural values, the impact of the traditional way of life (and its decline) on the surrounding landscape, and they always try to gather new insights on these aspects through conversations with local residents. Reed harvesting is carried out in Lake Kanieris during winter, which is a traditional management method, as reed materials were historically used for roofing. In Pape Wetland Complex reed harvesting is also conducted in winter, a traditional method since reeds were historically used for roofing. Grazing is carried out along the Pape lake shores.

10.4 Have the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands been applied? (Resolution VII. 8) {10.2}

☒ A=Yes

10.4 Additional information

If "yes" please list national legislation/policies and actions that consider the needs and participation of indigenous and local communities in wetland management at all relevant levels.

>>> Under the current regulations governing the development of nature protection plans, local communities play an active role in the planning process. Their involvement is considered essential to ensure that the plans not only address ecological concerns but also take into account the knowledge, perspectives, and interests of the local communities who live in and around the protected areas. This participatory approach helps to foster a sense of shared responsibility and enhances the effectiveness of conservation efforts by integrating local insights into the management and protection of natural resources.

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

☒ A=Yes

10.5 Additional information

>>> The historical and traditional management of territories is described and analyzed in the nature protection plans for protected areas. These plans examine past practices and their impact on the landscape and ecosystems, ensuring that traditional methods of land use and management are considered alongside modern conservation strategies.

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

>>> In the process of developing nature protection plans for Kemeris National Park (Latke Kanieris and Kemeris Bog Ramsar site) and the Lubana Wetland (Lubana Wetland Complex), an evaluation of ecosystem services was also carried out. This assessment aimed to identify and analyze the various benefits that these ecosystems provide, including services related to biodiversity, water quality, climate regulation, and recreational opportunities.

Additionally, assessments of natural capital have been conducted as part of separate projects outside of Ramsar sites.

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

☒ B=No

11.2 Additional information

>>> -

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

☒ B=No

11.3 Additional Information

>>> -

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

>>> During the development of nature protection plans for protected areas (including wetlands), a socio-economic assessment of the territory is conducted. This evaluation aims to analyze the social and economic factors that influence and are influenced by the protected areas. It considers aspects such as local community livelihoods, economic activities, cultural values, and the potential impacts of conservation measures on these factors.

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

☒ A=Yes

11.5 Additional information

>>> Cultural values of wetlands have been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands in general. The management plans often consider the cultural significance of these ecosystems, including traditional practices, local knowledge, and the socio-economic benefits that wetlands provide to communities.

Target 12

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

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

12.1 Have national wetland restoration targets been established?

☒ A=Yes

12.1 Additional Information

>>> Latvia has established national conservation targets for all EU habitat types, including wetlands. These targets aim to restore and maintain the ecological integrity of various habitats, aligning with the EU Habitats Directive.

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

☒ A=Yes

12.2 Additional information

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

>>> In National Conservation and Management Programme for Natura 2000 sites in Latvia have been identified necessary management and habitat restoration measures for all protected areas in Latvia. The restoration measures to be taken are specified during the development of nature management plans.

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

☒ A=Yes

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

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

Inland	-		
Human-made	-		

12.3 Additional information

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

>>> Various habitat management measures directly or indirectly related to wetlands have been implemented in all Ramsar Sites as part of different projects. However, it is not possible to specify the exact area of restored wetlands.

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

☒ B=No

12.4 Additional Information

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

>>> -

Target 13

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10 and 14]

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

Please select only one per square.

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

13.1 Additional Information

>>> The current legislation strictly prohibits the planning and development of new construction projects in areas that are prone to flooding and along coastal regions where designated protective zones are in place. These protective zones are specifically established to safeguard sensitive ecosystems, including protected habitats that are crucial for biodiversity. Sustainability principles are taken into account when determining annual fishing limits.

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

>>> Requirements for strategic environmental impact assessment are set up in the law “On Environmental Impact Assessment” and subordinated Government Regulations for implementation of strategic environmental impact assessment. Strategic environmental impact assessment is an environmental impact assessment for a planning documents, the implementation of which may have a substantial impact on the environment, as well as the preparation and discussing of an environmental review, the involving of the public in the preparation of the documents and decision-making. Strategic assessment is implemented for planning documents during their preparation before they are accepted for the approval.

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

>>> Requirements for procedure for environmental impact assessment in Latvia are established by the law “On Environmental Impact Assessment” and subordinated Government Regulations. These documents are harmonized with the respective EU Directives. The law and its subordinated regulations defines sequence of implementation of the assessment, explains rights, obligations and liabilities of all concerned parties, as well as describes result of the environmental impact assessment and its influence towards decision-making procedure.

Separate evaluation procedure is set for assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites (all Latvian Ramsar sites are Natura 2000 sites).

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.

>>> NorBalWet

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

15.2 Additional information

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

>>> -

Target 16

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 21].

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

16.1 Additional information

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

>>> -

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ E=# centres

>>> 4

b) at other wetlands

☒ E=# centres

>>> 1

16.2 Additional information

>>> Information center “Nature school” in Kemeris includes training and educational events in Lake Kanieris Ramsar site. Information Center and observation towers in Lubana Wetland Complex, Pape Wetland Complex and in Teici and Pelecare Bogs Ramsar site are established, North Vidzeme Nature education center. Nature education center “Razna”.

16.3 Does the Contracting Party {16.3}

Please select only one per square.

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

16.3 Additional information

>>> a) Procedure of management plans development for protected territories (including Ramsar sites) involves a public consultation and steering group establishment (with representatives of the local population), promoting stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management. Pape Wetland Complex consultative board, Kemeris consultative board, Lubana Wetland Complex consultative board foresees to involve stakeholders in decision-making on wetland planning and management. Voluntary monitoring of river water biological quality raise public awareness and involve people in planning

and decision making process at local level.

b) according to national legislation any person or organization may submit a proposal for the creation of new protected site; all landowners and stakeholders are informed about the creation of the site and their interests are taken into account. Locals are involved in Ramsar site management activities.

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

☒ B=No

16.4 Additional information

>>> -

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

☒ B=No

16.5 Additional information

>>> -

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

Please select only one per square.

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

16.6 Additional information

>>> Regular communication with Ramsar site managers (Nature Conservation Agency) and other MEA national focal points.

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

>>> At the Latvian National Museum of Nature, various activities related to wetlands are carried out annually, including seminars and other events dedicated to celebrating World Wetlands Day.

For example, in 2022, a new section dedicated to wetlands was created on the Museum's games page

(<https://speles.dabasmuzejs.gov.lv/>); in 2023, an animated film about bog conservation in Latvia was

produced, and in collaboration with the Nature Conservation Agency a Wetlands Day event was organized.

Visitors were also provided with an educational coloring page about wetlands from the Ramsar Convention

Secretariat. Throughout the year, visitors can attend a workshop called "The Miraculous Bog" as well as other workshops that explore wetland plants and animals. More than 20 workshops specifically focusing on wetlands were held during the reporting period, attended by over 400 participants. The topic of wetlands is also indirectly addressed in other workshops.

During the reporting period, the Museum featured the exhibition "World Seas," with a special section dedicated to the animals of the Baltic Sea. The exhibition "Humans and the Environment" highlights the ecology of the Baltic Sea. Part of the Botany and Mycology exhibition is devoted to wetlands, specifically bogs in Latvia. Since the museum welcomes around 100,000 visitors annually, and it can be assumed that the majority visit these exhibitions, tens of thousands of visitors, mostly students and families with children, learn more about wetlands and their significance.

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

>>> In 2023, an animated film about bog conservation in Latvia was produced, and in collaboration with the Nature Conservation Agency, a Wetlands Day event was organized. Visitors were also provided with an educational coloring page about wetlands from the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. Throughout the year, visitors can attend a workshop called "The Miraculous Bog" as well as other workshops that explore wetland plants and animals. More than 20 workshops specifically focusing on wetlands were held during the reporting period, attended by over 400 participants. The topic of wetlands is also indirectly addressed in other workshops.

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

>>> <https://www.daba.gov.lv/lv/ramsar-mitraji>
www.dabasmuzejs.lv
<https://www.varam.gov.lv/lv/ramsares-konvencija>

Target 17

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

17.1 Additional information

>>> -

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}

☒ B=No

17.2 Additional information

>>> -

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

Please select only one per square.

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

17.3 Additional information

for example from which countries or agencies

>>> -

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

☒ A=Yes

17.4 Additional information

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

>>> Latvian Environmental Protection Fund (national budget) regularly supports different wetland management and communication projects.

Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels

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

☒ B=No

18.1 Additional information

>>> -

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

☒ B=No

18.2 Additional information

>>> -

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

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

18.3 Additional information

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

>>> Latvia has not received assistance from any of the specified UN or other global and regional bodies and agencies in implementing the Convention on Wetlands since COP14.

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

☒ B=No

18.4 Additional information

>>> -

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

☒ A=Yes

18.5 Additional information

>>> All transboundary wetland systems have been identified.

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

☒ C=Partially

18.6 Additional information

>>> Cooperation between Latvian and Lithuanian municipalities on joint and mutually tuned management activities mostly deals with water quality issues, to lesser extent as well to the biodiversity issues.

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

>>> Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds

Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*).

Target 19

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20]

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

☒ B=No

19.1 Additional information

>>> -

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

☒ B=No

19.2 Additional Information

>>> -

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

☒ C=Partially

19.3 Additional information

>>> Nature protection issues (including the protection of wetlands) are included in general education programmes in schools as well as in natural science education programmes at the university level.

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ G=More than #

>>> 10

b) at other wetlands

☒ G=More than #

>>> 10

19.4 Additional information

>>> Multiple training events have taken place for wetland site managers since COP14. These training sessions cover various aspects of wetland management, conservation practices, and ecosystem restoration, aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of site managers.

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

☒ B=No

19.5 Additional information

>>> -

