



RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

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Section 1: Institutional Information

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

Name of Contracting Party

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

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

>>> North Macedonia

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[LEETER COP 15 North Macedonia.pdf](#)

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

>>> Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

>>> Izet Mexhiti

Mailing address

>>> infoeko@moepp.gov.mk

Telephone

>>> +389 2 3251 403

Email

>>> infoeko@moepp.gov.mk

Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title

>>> Vlatko Trpeski

Mailing address

>>> v.trpeski@moepp.gov.mk

Telephone

>>> +38976404395

Email

>>> v.trpeski@moepp.gov.mk

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)
>>> identification of potential wetlands and starting procedure for proclamation as future Protected areas (Ohrid Lake and Studencisko Blato) and Nomination of the Ohrid lake and Studnecisko Blato as a new Ramsar Site
- 2)
>>> Adopted Manegment plan for Prespa lake as a Protected area and Ramsar site
- 3)
>>> Identification of wetlands as potential natural 2000 sites in the whole country
- 4)
>>> Prepared Action Plan for the Conservation of the 91D0* Bog woodland in North Macedonia
- 5)
>>> Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem and their Services (MAES) in North Macedonia

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

- 1)
>>> Lack of Financial Resources: One of the biggest challenges is insufficient funding for biodiversity conservation. Many developing countries, in particular, have struggled to access the necessary financial resources to implement Convention
- 2)
>>> Limited Mainstreaming of Biodiversity: Biodiversity concerns are often not well-integrated into other sectors like agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, and infrastructure. As a result, economic activities continue to degrade ecosystems, often in direct contradiction to conservation goals.
- 3)
>>> Policy Coherence: Many national and international policies are not well-coordinated. This lack of policy coherence leads to conflicting objectives across sectors, undermining biodiversity conservation efforts.
- 4)
>>> Insufficient Data: Many countries lack the scientific capacity and technology to monitor biodiversity effectively. Without accurate data, it's difficult to assess progress or design effective conservation strategies.
- 5)
>>> Land Use Change: The expansion of agriculture, logging, and mining continues to be a major driver of biodiversity loss, despite efforts to implement more sustainable practices.

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

- 1)
>>> Wetland Protection: One of the core priorities is to enhance the protection of existing wetlands, especially those designated as Ramsar sites. This includes ensuring effective legal frameworks and management plans to safeguard wetlands from threats such as land-use change, industrial development, and pollution.
- 2)
>>> Wetland Restoration: With many wetlands already degraded, restoration efforts are essential. Restoring wetlands that have been drained or degraded is critical to recovering their biodiversity and ecosystem services, including flood mitigation, water purification, and carbon sequestration.
- 3)
>>> Monitoring Climate Impacts: Wetlands are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels, droughts, and changing hydrological cycles. Prioritizing the monitoring of climate impacts on

wetland ecosystems and promoting adaptive management practices are vital.

4)

>>> Cross-Sectoral Integration: Wetland conservation should not be an isolated effort. A priority is to integrate wetland conservation goals into national development plans, agriculture, water management, urban planning, and energy sectors. This can help ensure that economic activities do not degrade or destroy wetlands and that wetlands are considered in land-use planning decisions.

5)

>>> Public Awareness and Education: Increasing awareness about the importance of wetlands for biodiversity, water security, and climate regulation is critical. Educational campaigns, especially those targeting youth, decision-makers, and local communities, can foster greater appreciation for wetlands and promote behavior that supports their protection.

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

>>> more effective on Support the activities of Regional Ramsar centres to undertake training, capacity building and facilitate regional cooperation.

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)?

>>> Recommendations for IOP Implementation Assistance in North Macedonia

Capacity Building:

Work with IOPs such as WWF or Wetlands International to provide training on wetland management, biodiversity monitoring, and sustainable use of resources.

Develop targeted workshops for local stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and community leaders, to raise awareness of Ramsar principles and best practices.

Wetland Inventory and Monitoring:

Collaborate with IUCN and other partners to update or expand inventories of wetlands in North Macedonia, ensuring comprehensive data collection.

Use IOP expertise to establish monitoring systems for wetland health and biodiversity trends, integrating local and regional environmental data.

Integrated Water Management:

Focus on the transboundary aspects of water management for shared rivers and lakes like Lake Ohrid and the Vardar River.

Enhancing Community Participation:

Partner with BirdLife International or other NGOs to involve local communities in wetland conservation through citizen science projects and eco-tourism initiatives.

Promote sustainable livelihoods that align with conservation goals, such as organic agriculture or crafts using natural materials.

Policy Development and Implementation:

Seek IOP advice on harmonizing national policies with international commitments, such as the EU Water Framework Directive and Natura 2000 network.

Facilitate the development of action plans for Ramsar Site management with technical input from IOPs.

Public Awareness and Education:

Use IOP resources to launch education campaigns highlighting the importance of wetlands for biodiversity, flood control, and climate resilience.

Collaborate with regional partners to produce educational materials tailored to the cultural and environmental context of North Macedonia.

Biodiversity Conservation:

Work with organizations like BirdLife International to focus on migratory bird species that use North Macedonia's wetlands as critical habitats.

Prioritize conservation actions for Ramsar sites like Lake Prespa, ensuring that they remain a haven for biodiversity.

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.

>>> Achieving gender balance in wetland-related decisions, programs, and research is vital for sustainable wetland management. Women's and men's roles in managing natural resources, including wetlands, often differ due to socio-cultural norms, economic activities, and access to decision-making platforms. Ensuring equal gender representation in wetland governance can lead to more inclusive, effective, and sustainable outcomes.

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

achievement of gender equality.

>>> Capacity Building for Women and Men: Providing targeted training and capacity-building programs ensures that both women and men can actively engage in wetland management, restoration, and monitoring efforts. This can help empower women, who are often underrepresented in environmental management, to take on leadership roles.

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

>>> Community Education on Gender Equality: Raising awareness about the importance of gender equality in wetland management, both at the community level and within decision-making bodies, helps to challenge cultural norms that may restrict women's participation. Engaging men as allies in promoting gender equality is also crucial.

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

>>> Here are key aspects of North Macedonia's gender-related policies, particularly as they relate to environmental management and decision-making:

1. National Framework for Gender Equality

Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (2006): This law provides a comprehensive framework to promote gender equality in all areas of social life, including employment, education, and political participation. It mandates the creation of gender equality mechanisms in public institutions at the national and local levels.

Gender Equality Strategy 2013–2020: This strategy aims to integrate gender equality across all sectors of governance, including environmental policies. It focuses on improving women's access to decision-making, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

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).

>>> N/A

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

>>> Hydrobiological institute Ohrid
Natural Historical museum Skopje
Sector od Water/MOEPP

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

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

1.1 Additional information

>>> /

Target 2

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

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

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

☒ A=Yes

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?

☒ A=Yes

2.3 Additional Information

>>> Temporary protection of Studenčišča Marsh (SM) with Minister's decision by Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning official gazette No 164 by 19 July 2021 gives full protection up to the proclamation of the march. With the Minister's decision almost all activities are forbidden up to proclaiming the marsh and they are more restricted than the law.

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

☒ C=Partially

2.4 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

>>> /

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

☒ A=Yes

2.6 Additional Information

>>> Several project are ongoing for wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology

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.

>>> /

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

>>> Pubic participation is part of the process of proclamation

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).

>>> /

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.

>>> deforestation in Presa lake

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}

☒ D=Planned

4.1 Additional information

>>> North Macedonia is making progress in addressing the issue of invasive alien species (IAS), particularly in wetland ecosystems, but a fully comprehensive and centralized national inventory of IAS does not yet exist. The country has taken steps through its national biodiversity strategy, participation in regional and international initiatives, and alignment with EU regulations to manage IAS and protect the ecological integrity of its wetlands. Ongoing efforts are needed to improve monitoring, data collection, and public awareness regarding IAS in wetland ecosystems

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}

☒ X=Unknown

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

☒ D=Planned

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

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

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

Target 5

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

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

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

☒ A=Yes

5.1 Additional information

>>> National Strategy for Nature Protection (2017-2027)

Spatial I plan in ongoing

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 1

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 1

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 1

5.2 – 5.4 Additional information

>>> /

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

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

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

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

☒ C=Partially

>>> Prespa lake

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.

>>> MEET 4 tools according to IUCN guide line its using

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 1

5.6 Additional information

>>> Prespa lake commity

5.7 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared (see Resolution

X.15)?

☒ X=Unknown

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

>>> Yes. No capacity in public bodies

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

>>> North Macedonia has established several mechanisms to ensure that the Administrative Authority is informed of any negative human-induced changes or likely changes to the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, in line with Article 3.2 of the Ramsar Convention. These mechanisms include environmental monitoring systems, collaboration with local and regional authorities, management plans for Ramsar Sites, and international cooperation. Through these efforts, the country aims to safeguard the ecological integrity of its Ramsar Sites and meet its obligations under the Ramsar Convention.

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

☒ C=Some Cases

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

>>> While North Macedonia has made strides in environmental management and monitoring of its Ramsar Sites, it has not yet fully met the obligation to report all negative or likely changes in the ecological character of these sites to the Ramsar Secretariat as per Article 3.2. More robust reporting mechanisms are required to ensure compliance with Ramsar requirements, including timely and systematic submission of reports on significant ecological changes. Enhanced coordination, capacity building, and data collection will be crucial in meeting these obligations moving forward.

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}

☒ D=Planned

8.1 Additional information

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

>>> North Macedonia does have a National Wetland Inventory, which is a vital tool for the protection and sustainable management of its wetland ecosystems. While the inventory is in place, there are still efforts underway to expand and improve its comprehensiveness and accuracy. The country is working to enhance its wetland data collection and monitoring systems, ensuring that they align with international standards such as those set by the Ramsar Convention. With continued investment in data collection, monitoring, and capacity building, North Macedonia will be better positioned to protect and manage its wetlands in the long term.

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

☒ X=Unknown

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ X=Unknown

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

☒ D=Planned

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

>>> no info

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}

☒ X=Unknown

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>.

>>> /

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

8.7 Additional Information

>>> The significant reduction of the water levels of Lake Prespa already has and will have major consequences on both the quality of its water and also of the lake basin.

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 type="checkbox"/> 3=no change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2=deterioration <input type="checkbox"/> 1=major deterioration

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

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

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

	Yes
a) Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Relevant skills	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>
g) Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Others	<input type="checkbox"/>

Target 9

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

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

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

☒ C=In Preparation

9.1 Additional information

>>> While North Macedonia does not have a specific, dedicated national wetland policy that explicitly promotes the wise use of wetlands, various national strategies, management plans, and legal frameworks collectively work towards the sustainable management and conservation of wetland ecosystems. These policies emphasize the need to balance wetland conservation with development needs, align with international obligations (e.g., Ramsar Convention), and support the wise use principle. The country is actively working to improve its wetland conservation strategies and align them with international best practices, including those of the European Union.

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

9.3 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

9.4 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

>>> LONG-TERM STRATEGY ON CLIMATE ACTION AND ACTION PLAN

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/MKD_ES_LTS_Nov2021.pdf

North Macedonia is recognizing and incorporating wetlands into its climate change policies, primarily through the National Strategy on Climate Change, the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), and other environmental frameworks. Wetlands are increasingly acknowledged for their vital role in climate change mitigation (such as carbon sequestration) and adaptation (such as flood control and water management). However, the country is still in the process of fully integrating wetlands into its comprehensive climate action strategies, and there is room for more targeted policies and actions that enhance the role of wetlands in climate resilience.

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

>>> LONG-TERM STRATEGY ON CLIMATE ACTION AND ACTION PLAN

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/MKD_ES_LTS_Nov2021.pdf

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

☒ C=Partially

9.7 Additional information

>>> North Macedonia is taking steps to integrate wetlands into its agricultural policies through strategies such as sustainable water management, agri-environmental measures, and EU rural development programs. These policies support the idea that wetlands can play a critical role in enhancing agricultural productivity while protecting biodiversity and promoting climate resilience. However, there is still room for improvement in terms of policy coherence and farmer engagement to ensure wetlands are sustainably managed as part of the country's agricultural systems.

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

b) climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) valuation of ecosystem services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

9.8 Additional information

>>> In 2018, the Republic of North Macedonia, as an EU candidate country and in view of its main strategic documents for nature protection - National Strategy for Nature Protection with Action Plan (2017-2027) and National Biodiversity Strategy with Action Plan (2018-2023) began establishing knowledge and practical base for ecosystem services on a national level. The activities have been conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning with national expert support within the framework of the Nature Conservation Programme, a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

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

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

☒ B=No

Target 10

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

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

☒ C1= Partially

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

☒ C1= Partially

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

☒ D=Planned

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.

>>> The stakeholder council is part of the PA system

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

>>> management plan in Prespa lake

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

>>> http://www.bregalnica-ncp.mk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Poster_MAES_North_Macedonia.pdf

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

☒ C=Partially

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

☒ A=Yes

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

>>> social economy is part of the Study of valorization

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

☒ C=Partially

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}

☒ A=Yes

12.2 Additional information

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

>>> Studnecisko blato and prespa lake

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

☒ D=Planned

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	2	ongoing	ongoing
Inland			
Human-made			

12.3 Additional information

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

>>> EU for Prespa project was plan restoration

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

Target 13

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10 and 14]

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

☒ A=Yes

13.2 Additional information

>>> Its part of Law on environment procedure for EIA

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

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.

>>> North Macedonia is an active participant in several Ramsar Regional Initiatives, including the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) and Balkans Wetlands Initiatives, and has contributed to regional projects focusing on wetland conservation and sustainable management. These efforts are part of North Macedonia’s commitment to the Ramsar Convention and its objectives to protect and wisely use wetlands in the region. The country's participation in these initiatives strengthens cross-border cooperation and promotes the sustainable management of shared wetland resources.

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).

>>> North Macedonia has not independently developed a regional wetland training and research center, it has actively supported and participated in several regional initiatives that foster collaboration, research, and capacity building related to wetland conservation and management. Its participation in platforms like MedWet, the Balkans Wetlands Network, and the Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust ensures that the country benefits from and contributes to regional wetland research and training efforts. Through these collaborations, North Macedonia helps advance wetland conservation and management in the broader Mediterranean and Balkans regions.

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

>>> 2

b) at other wetlands

☒ E=# centres

>>> 2

16.2 Additional information

>>> Prespa and dojran lake has visitor centre

16.3 Does the Contracting Party {16.3}

Please select only one per square.

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

16.3 Additional information

>>> we implement Arhus convention

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

☒ A=Yes

16.4 Additional information

>>> Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC),

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

☒ A=Yes

16.5 Additional information

>>> Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area
Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC),

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

Please select only one per square.

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

16.6 Additional information

>>> /

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

>>> [https://arhiva.moepp.gov.mk/nastani/2-](https://arhiva.moepp.gov.mk/nastani/2-%D1%84%D0%B5%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%83%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B8-%D1%81%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%82%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D0%B4%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B5-%D0%B6%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%B5/)

%D1%84%D0%B5%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%83%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B8-%D1%81%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%82%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D0%B4%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B5-%D0%B6%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%B5/

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}

☒ A=Yes

16.9 Additional Information

>>> moepp.gov.mk
natura2000.gov.mk

Target 17

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

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

☒ A=Yes

17.1 Additional information

>>> Via various donor projects

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}

☒ X=Unknown

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

17.3 Additional information

for example from which countries or agencies

>>> Via various donor projects

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.

>>> With national program for natural protection

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

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

☒ A=Yes

18.2 Additional information

>>> regular communication is ongoing

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

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

18.3 Additional information

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

>>> /

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

☒ A=Yes

18.4 Additional information

>>> via various projects

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

☒ A=Yes

18.5 Additional information

>>> prespa lake

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

☒ C=Partially

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

☒ A=Yes

18.7 Additional information

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

>>> Biodiversity task force

Target 19

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20]

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ C=Partially

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

>>> wetland conservation and wise-use issues are increasingly included in formal education programs in North Macedonia, though the extent of integration can vary across different levels of education.

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ E=# opportunities

>>> 10

b) at other wetlands

☒ E=# Opportunities

>>> 10

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

☒ A=Yes

19.5 Additional information

>>> In North Macedonia, the Administrative Authority (AA) utilizes previous National Reports as an essential tool for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Ramsar Convention. These reports help assess progress, identify gaps, and guide strategic planning and action for wetland conservation and wise use. They also support stakeholder engagement and ensure that the country remains aligned with the goals of the Ramsar Convention.

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

☒ B=Medium

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 1: Wetland benefits - National Targets

>>> North Macedonia has not yet established explicit, standalone national targets for wetland benefits, the country's policy landscape shows growing alignment with international frameworks like the Ramsar Convention and the Global Biodiversity Framework. The country's National Biodiversity Strategy, EU integration efforts, and ongoing restoration and conservation projects indicate progress toward the recognition and incorporation of wetland benefits in national and sectoral strategies. Moving forward, more specific targets could be established to quantify and monitor the contribution of wetlands to biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Planned activity

>>> The planned activities related to wetland benefits in North Macedonia aim to improve wetland conservation and enhance the ecological, social, and economic benefits these ecosystems provide. The integration of wetlands into national policies, community engagement, research, sustainable tourism, and climate change adaptation efforts will contribute to the country's ability to meet both Ramsar Convention obligations and broader biodiversity and climate goals. By advancing these planned activities, North Macedonia aims to protect and sustain its wetland ecosystems while maximizing their benefits for both people and nature.

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Outcomes achieved by 2021

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

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

>>> By 2024, North Macedonia's efforts to conserve, restore, and wisely use wetlands are expected to generate significant outcomes that directly contribute to achieving the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Wetlands are vital ecosystems that provide numerous benefits, including biodiversity conservation, water regulation, carbon sequestration, and support for livelihoods, which can be leveraged to meet various international commitments

Target 2: Water Use

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

Target 2: Water Use - Priority

☒ B=Medium

Target 2: Water Use - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 2: Water Use - National Targets

- >>> 1. Target for Sustainable Water Allocation to Wetlands
- 2. Target for Integrated Water Management (IWRM)
- 3. Target for Pollution Reduction and Water Quality
- 4. Target for Wetland Restoration and Hydrological Rehabilitation
- 5. Target for Climate Change Adaptation and Wetland Role in Water Regulation
- 6. Target for Sustainable Agricultural Water Use
- 7. Target for Public Awareness and Stakeholder Engagement

Target 2: Water Use - Planned activity

>>> The planned activities for water use in North Macedonia focus on balancing human needs with the protection of wetland ecosystems. By integrating wetland conservation into water management practices, strengthening pollution control, and promoting water-efficient practices, the country can ensure that its wetlands continue to provide vital ecosystem services. Additionally, promoting awareness, enhancing legal frameworks, and investing in climate resilience will contribute to sustainable water use practices that protect and restore wetlands for the benefit of biodiversity, local communities, and the economy. These actions will help North Macedonia meet its commitments to the Ramsar Convention, Sustainable Development Goal 6, and other relevant international frameworks.

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, North Macedonia is expected to achieve several key outcomes related to water use and wetland conservation, contributing to both national sustainability goals and international commitments under the Ramsar Convention and the Global Biodiversity Framework. These outcomes are the result of planned activities aimed at improving water management practices, reducing pressures on wetland ecosystems, and enhancing the role of wetlands in sustainable water use

Target 3: Public and private sectors

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

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Priority

☒ B=Medium

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

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

☒ B=Adequate

Target 4: Invasive alien species - National Targets

>>> National targets for managing invasive alien species (IAS) in North Macedonia are set to align with global biodiversity goals, such as Aichi Target 9, and regional conservation priorities

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Planned activity

>>> Planned activities to address invasive alien species (IAS) in North Macedonia include a mix of prevention, control, capacity building, and policy integration. These are aligned with national and international frameworks, such as the Ramsar Convention and Aichi Target 9

Goal 2

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites

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

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Resourcing

☒ B=Adequate

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - National Targets

>>> North Macedonia's national targets for preserving the ecological character of its Ramsar Sites are aligned with global biodiversity frameworks, including the Ramsar Convention, Aichi Targets, and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). These targets are designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the country's key wetland ecosystems, particularly Lake Ohrid, Lake Prespa, and Lake Dojran.

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Planned activity

>>> The planned activities for the conservation and management of the ecological character of North Macedonia's Ramsar Sites, specifically Lake Ohrid, Lake Prespa, and Lake Dojran, are part of broader national and international strategies to preserve these critical wetland ecosystems. These activities align with Ramsar guidelines, EU directives, and the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Target 7: Sites at risk

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

Target 7: Sites at risk - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 7: Sites at risk - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 7: Sites at risk - National Targets

>>> Pollution Reduction and Water Quality Improvement

Invasive Species Control and Management

Habitat Restoration and Ecosystem Resilience

Sustainable Land Use and Water Management

Strengthened Governance and Cross-Border Cooperation

North Macedonia's national targets for Ramsar Sites at risk focus on reducing threats from pollution, invasive species, and unsustainable land use while promoting habitat restoration and enhancing ecosystem resilience. These targets contribute to global biodiversity goals by supporting the Global Biodiversity Framework, especially Targets 3, 4, and 10, which are focused on mitigating biodiversity loss, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and integrating biodiversity into policy-making processes. These efforts will help ensure that the ecological character of Ramsar Sites remains intact for future generations.

Target 7: Sites at risk - Planned activity

>>> Pollution Reduction and Water Quality Improvement

Invasive Species Control and Management

Wetland Habitat Restoration

Climate Change Adaptation and Ecosystem Resilience

Strengthening Governance and Stakeholder Engagement

North Macedonia's planned activities for Ramsar Sites at risk focus on addressing pollution, controlling invasive species, restoring degraded habitats, enhancing ecosystem resilience to climate change, and improving governance and cross-border cooperation. These activities are designed to protect the ecological integrity of critical wetland ecosystems, ensuring their long-term sustainability and contributing to national and global biodiversity goals.

Target 7: Sites at risk - Outcomes achieved by 2021

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

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

>>> By 2021, North Macedonia made important strides in addressing the risks to its Ramsar Sites, particularly through pollution control, invasive species management, habitat restoration, and strengthened cross-border cooperation. These efforts were key in maintaining the ecological character of the sites, contributing to regional biodiversity goals and global conservation commitments.

Goal 3

Target 8: National wetland inventories

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

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 8: National wetland inventories - National Targets

>>> The national targets for wetland inventories in North Macedonia focus on creating and maintaining a comprehensive, up-to-date, and accessible inventory of the country's wetlands. These efforts are vital for informed decision-making, effective wetland management, and integrating conservation priorities into broader environmental and developmental frameworks. The targets aim to support the sustainable use and protection of wetland ecosystems, contributing to both national biodiversity conservation efforts and international commitments under the Ramsar Convention and the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Planned activity

>>> North Macedonia's planned activities for national wetland inventories focus on completing a comprehensive inventory, maintaining up-to-date data, and ensuring its integration with other national environmental monitoring systems. Public access, stakeholder engagement, and capacity building are key components of these activities, helping to ensure that wetlands are sustainably managed and protected for future generations.

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

☒ B=Medium

Target 9: Wise Use - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 9: Wise Use - National Targets

>>> North Macedonia's national targets for wise use emphasize sustainable practices, ecosystem service valuation, public engagement, and adaptive management to protect and utilize wetland resources responsibly. These targets are essential for balancing environmental conservation with socio-economic development, ensuring that wetlands continue to provide benefits to both nature and people. These goals align with international frameworks such as the Ramsar Convention and contribute to the country's broader biodiversity and sustainability objectives.

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Target 9: Wise Use - Planned activity

>>> The planned activities for promoting wise use of wetlands in North Macedonia aim to integrate sustainable resource management, tourism, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem service valuation into national policies and local practices. These activities support the country's commitment to Ramsar Convention principles, ensuring that wetlands continue to provide critical services to both nature and communities while fostering sustainable development.

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 10: Traditional Knowledge - National Targets

>>> North Macedonia's national targets related to traditional knowledge focus on integrating local, community-based practices into formal wetland management and conservation strategies. This approach not only enhances the effectiveness of conservation but also fosters a sense of ownership and participation among local communities, helping to achieve the country's broader environmental sustainability goals. These efforts align with the principles of the Ramsar Convention and the Global Biodiversity Framework, ensuring that traditional knowledge plays a vital role in the wise use and protection of wetlands.

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Planned activity

>>> The planned activities in North Macedonia aim to ensure that traditional knowledge is fully integrated into the country's wetland management strategies. By documenting, preserving, and promoting the use of local knowledge, North Macedonia can enhance the sustainability of its wetlands, strengthen community involvement in conservation, and improve resilience to climate change. These efforts are crucial for maintaining the ecological integrity of key wetlands and ensuring that both local traditions and modern conservation science contribute to their protection.

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

☒ A=High

Target 11: Wetland functions - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 11: Wetland functions - National Targets

>>> The national targets of North Macedonia for wetland functions aim to ensure that wetlands continue to provide vital services, such as biodiversity support, water purification, and climate resilience. These efforts are closely tied to both national development goals and international commitments, including the Ramsar Convention and climate agreements. The activities outlined will not only preserve wetland ecosystems but will also improve local livelihoods through sustainable management and the protection of wetland services.

Target 11: Wetland functions - Planned activity

>>> The planned activities in North Macedonia focus on enhancing the multifaceted functions of wetlands by combining restoration, sustainable water management, climate adaptation, and public engagement. These initiatives will help improve the overall health of wetland ecosystems, ensuring that they continue to provide essential services such as water purification, carbon sequestration, and habitat for biodiversity. By monitoring and integrating these functions into national policies, North Macedonia aims to strengthen the role of wetlands in addressing environmental challenges.

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

☒ C=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

☒ B=Medium

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

☒ A=High

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - National Targets

>>> The national targets of North Macedonia for regional initiatives focus on fostering strong partnerships with neighboring countries to address shared environmental challenges. Through collaborative efforts in water management, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience, North Macedonia seeks to ensure the long-term sustainability of its wetlands, rivers, and lakes. These regional initiatives are integral to achieving both national and international environmental goals, contributing to the broader conservation of the Balkans and the Mediterranean.

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Planned activity

>>> North Macedonia's planned activities in regional initiatives are designed to foster collaboration with neighboring countries in addressing shared environmental challenges, particularly in the areas of water management, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience. Through these joint efforts, North Macedonia aims to enhance the sustainability of its ecosystems, contributing to broader regional and global environmental goals.

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Outcomes achieved by 2021

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

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

>>> By 2021, North Macedonia's participation in regional initiatives achieved notable progress, especially in water management, biodiversity protection, and climate change resilience. These outcomes reflect the country's commitment to cross-border cooperation and its role in regional environmental sustainability. These efforts also contributed to broader regional goals under international agreements such as the Ramsar Convention and CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity).

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

☒ C=Limiting

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - National Targets

>>> North Macedonia's national targets for wetland conservation and wise use focus on strengthening protection, improving monitoring, engaging communities, restoring degraded areas, and promoting sustainable use. These actions are designed to preserve the ecological functions of wetlands while ensuring that local populations can benefit from these vital ecosystems. Through these efforts, North Macedonia is working to meet both national and international obligations, including commitments under the Ramsar Convention and CBD.

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Planned activity

>>> North Macedonia's planned activities for wetlands conservation and wise use aim to strengthen legal frameworks, improve monitoring and restoration efforts, and promote sustainable practices among local communities. These initiatives are designed to safeguard the ecological health of wetlands while ensuring that they continue to provide vital ecosystem services to local populations and contribute to broader regional conservation goals. Through these actions, North Macedonia is working to meet its international commitments, including those under the Ramsar Convention and CBD.

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Outcomes achieved by 2021

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

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

>>> By 2021, North Macedonia made measurable progress in the conservation and wise use of wetlands through strengthened legal frameworks, improved monitoring systems, restoration initiatives, and greater public involvement. These efforts not only contributed to the protection of important wetland areas like Lake Ohrid and Lake Prespa but also enhanced the resilience of wetland ecosystems to climate change and human impacts. The outcomes achieved by 2021 also align with the country's international commitments under the Ramsar Convention and CBD.

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

☒ C=Limiting

Target 17: Financial and other resources - National Targets

>>> It was increase state budget but not enough

Target 18: International cooperation

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.

Target 18: International cooperation - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 18: International cooperation - Resourcing

☒ A=Good

Target 18: International cooperation - National Targets

>>> North Macedonia's national targets for international cooperation focus on strengthening cross-border collaboration, enhancing participation in global environmental agreements, increasing access to financial resources, and building technical capacity

Target 18: International cooperation - Planned activity

>>> increase cooperation with relevant stakeholders

Target 19: Capacity Building

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

Target 19: Capacity Building - Priority

☒ A=High

Target 19: Capacity Building - Resourcing

☒ C=Limiting

Target 19: Capacity Building - National Targets

>>> North Macedonia's national targets for capacity building focus on improving the skills and knowledge of both institutions and local communities involved in wetland conservation. Through training, research, and interdisciplinary collaboration, the country aims to strengthen its capacity to manage wetland ecosystems sustainably. Additionally, efforts to build local capacity for resource mobilization and public awareness will ensure that wetland conservation remains a priority and that adequate financial and technical resources are available for long-term success. These actions are critical for achieving national and international conservation goals, including those set out in the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Target 19: Capacity Building - Planned activity

>>> North Macedonia's planned activities for capacity building focus on a comprehensive approach that includes institutional strengthening, public education, research enhancement, and international collaboration

