



## **RAMSAR CONVENTION**

# **Ramsar National Report to COP15**

### **Help desk**

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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>

>>> Letter of report submission COP15

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

DZP-WO.604.13.2024.SG-3 letter to Secretary General.pdf - Letter of report submission COP15

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

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

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

Name and title

>>> not designed NFP

Name of organization

>>> NFP not designed yet

Mailing address

>>> NFP not designed yet

Phone

>>> NFP not designed yet

Email

>>> NFP not designed yet

## **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)  
>>> Implementation of integrated projects in the field of active protection of wetland species and habitats, as well as educational and promotional projects in areas covered by the Ramsar Convention and other wetland areas
- 2)  
>>> International cooperation in wetland management and exchange of good practices (establishment of a working group for European peatland policy - as part of the LIFE Multi-Peat project, Wetlands Green Life project)
- 3)  
>>> Increase of public awareness of the effects of climate change and degradation of biodiversity through the implementation of nature conservation and water management policies
- 4)  
>>> Increase of area of wetlands under extensive agricultural use (interest of the agri-environmental-climate program under the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023-2027)
- 5)  
>>> Increased importance of wetlands in the country's defence

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

- 1)  
>>> The effects of climate change destabilising wetland ecosystems (long-term droughts, torrential rains, floods, invasive alien species)
- 2)  
>>> Development of infrastructure and expansion of built-up areas at the expense of natural wetland areas due to the failure to adapt spatial management regulations to environmental conditions
- 3)  
>>> Hydrogeomorphological changes in rivers, maintaining old barriers on rivers
- 4)  
>>> Extensive network of drainage ditches in agricultural areas not adapted to current hydrological conditions
- 5)  
>>> Limited financial resources for the protection and management of wetland areas resulting from the low importance of environmental issues in individual sectors of the economy

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

- 1)  
>>> Approval and implementation of the Wetland Protection Strategy in Poland for 2025-2035
- 2)  
>>> Improvement of institutional solutions in investment planning to ensure the protection of wetland areas and valuable aquatic ecosystems
- 3)  
>>> Supplementation of the representation of wetland ecosystems in Poland by adding the most valuable objects representing the most beneficial types of these habitats to the Ramsar List
- 4)  
>>> Protection and designation of wetland buffer zones near streams, leaving an uncultivated strip along

streams

- 5)  
>>> Promotion of retention, rewetting of peatlands, paludiculture and peat substitutes in horticulture

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

>>> The cooperation between the national administration (AA) and the General Secretariat is running properly. Especially since the election of the Secretary General, Dr. Musonda Mumba, in 2022, communication has been transparent and open, and the Secretariat effectively implements the actions established in resolutions and decisions. In addition, Flore Lafaye De Micheaux, elected as Senior Advisor for Europe in 2023, performs her role professionally and diplomatically, offering assistance and suggesting solutions.

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)?

>>> We have no comments or suggestions regarding cooperation with the Convention's International Partner Organizations (IOPs). We appreciate the contribution of these organisations to the wise use of wetlands of Ramsar Convention.

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.

>>> The Wetland Committee in Poland consists of 25 women and 25 men. Currently, the gender ratio in this group of experts involved in the study, protection and administration of wetlands is equal, so the principle of parity is maintained.

However, in the units managing Ramsar areas, women are not sufficiently represented in positions that allow for decision-making and administration of areas (9 M: 4 F). Women dominate in the Regional Directorates of Environmental Protection (7 M: 9 F), while the management of national parks has been completely dominated by men for many years (21 M: 2 F). The directors of all 18 Regional Directorates of State Forests (and the director of the General Directorate of State Forests) are exclusively men.

The gender equality postulated in the Polish Constitution does not fully translate into practice. Women and men, despite legal guarantees, are not treated equally and do not have equal access to the distribution of goods.

The Gender Equality Index for Poland in 2023 was 61.9 and has increased compared to previous years but is still one of the lowest in Europe.

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

>>> There is no systemic approach to the implementation of equality and anti-discrimination policy and there are no tools and instruments enabling the implementation of equality policy. It is essential to implement policies within wetland organisations that promote gender balance in employment and career advancement. It is necessary to promote and support women in management positions in environmental organizations.

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

>>> The principle of equality between women and men is one of the main and fundamental horizontal principles in the European Union, specified in Article 9 of the General Regulation. All beneficiaries who implement any project co-financed by the European Funds for the years 2021-2027 are obliged to apply it. Gender Equality Plans (GEP) has to be held by public entities (ministries, organizations financing scientific research), scientific institutions, universities.

In order to ensure equal treatment of gender in the context of actions for wetlands, it would be necessary to introduce a requirement to develop and implement Gender Equality Plans in entities managing the country's natural resources (Ministry of Climate and Environment / The General Directorate for Environmental Protection / regional directorates for environmental protection / The General Directorate of State Forests / The State Water Management - Polish Waters).

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

>>> There are no gender equality policies dedicated to wetlands in Poland.

The principle of equality between women and men is one of the main and fundamental horizontal principles in the EU, set out in Article 9 of the General Regulation. All beneficiaries who implement any project co-financed by the European Funds for 2021-2027 are obliged to apply it. Gender Equality Plans (GEP) must be held by public entities (ministries, organizations financing scientific research), scientific institutions, and universities. Most universities and Polish Academy of Sciences institutes have the Gender Equality Plan.

Local government representatives are members of the scientific councils of Polish national parks.

Implementing tasks related to gender equality is not directly entered into the catalogues of tasks of local government units. However, only 20 Polish local government units are signatories to the European Charter for Equality between Women and Men in Local Life.

The National Contact Point for EU Research Programmes conducted training for local government units on the preparation of GEP in public units.

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).

>>> OTOP, as a partner of BirdLife International, implemented the "It's time" project in 2021-2023, within which the BirdLife International Young Leaders Council was established. Its aim was to create an international community of young people who value nature and facilitate global cooperation of youth from different countries and regions. Trainings for young activists were conducted, debates on threats to the world of birds were organized in larger cities in Poland, and an international meeting of the Young Leaders Council was held in Cambridge.

On a local scale: in the Warta Mouth NP, active participation of children and young people in the Park's conservation activities was implemented. Groups of "Rangers" were created - young people who participate in nature monitoring, building and hanging nesting boxes, educational activities and training on nature. Such activities have an impact on the involvement of increasingly larger groups of young people in the issue of wetlands.

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

>>> Ministry of Climate and Environment (MCE)

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)

Ministry of Infrastructure (MI)

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Bialystok

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Bydgoszcz

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Gdansk

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Gorzow

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Katowice

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Kielce

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Kraków

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Lublin

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Lodz

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Olsztyn

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Opole

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Poznan

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Szczecin

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Wroclaw

Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Warszawa

Biebrza National Park (BNP)

Drawa National Park (DNP)

Kampinos National Park (KNP)

Karkonosze National Park (KkNP)

Narew National Park (NNP)

Poleski National Park (PNP)

Slowinski National Park (SNP)

Tatra National Park (TNP)

Warta Mouth National Park (WMNP)

Wigry National Park (WNP)

General Directorate for Environmental Protection (GDEP)

General Directorate of the State Forests

State Water Holding Polish Waters

UNEP/GRID-Warszawa

National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NFEPWM)

Institute of Meteorology and Water Management - National Research Institute

Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP)

Abbreviations/ Dictionary of abbreviations:

GDEP - General Directorate for Environmental Protection

RDEP - Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection

RDSF - Regional Directorate of the State Forests

Polish Waters - State Water Holding Polish Waters

2ndWMP - 2nd update of the water management plans

3thWMP - 3th update of the water management plans

RDP - Rural Development Programme

CAP SP - Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan  
AECS - Agri-Environment Climate Scheme  
DECP - Drought Effects Counteracting Plan  
OPI&E - Infrastructure and Environment Operational Programme  
Strategy - Wetland Protection Strategy in Poland for 2024-2034  
LOS - Lublin Ornithological Society  
NC - Naturalists' Club  
PFEPWM - Provincial Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management

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

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

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

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

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

#### Target 1

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14]

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

Please select only one per square.

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



h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" 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 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

## 1.1 Additional information

>>> no info

## 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

>>> Formal adoption of the Wetland Protection Strategy in Poland for 2025-2035 has been initiated. The document is currently in internal consultations of the MCE. Intra-ministerial and public consultations will be held by the end of 2024.

The MCE has also taken steps to establish an intra-ministerial team for wetlands. The team's tasks will include providing an opinion on the draft Strategy, presenting recommendations on key directions of actions in the field of implementation, assessing the effects of taking into account the recommendations; and initiating, coordinating and monitoring actions in the field of its implementation.

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

>>> Work is currently underway to prepare 3th WMP, which will include setting environmental objectives for all surface water bodies and protected areas, along with determining environmental flows.

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

>>> Certain Ramsar areas, have implemented projects, as a result of which water conditions in ecosystems have improved:

2016-2022: Reduction of CO2 emissions by restoring degraded peatlands in Northern European Lowland - Slowinski NP

2015-2023: Conservation of selected habitats and species in Ostoja Slowinska PLH220023 and Pobrzeze Slowinskie PLB220003 Stage I

2014-2027: Restoration of the hydrographic network in the Central Basin of the Biebrza Valley. Stage II

2021-2024: Improving the status of ecological connectivity in the Karkonosze NP and its buffer zone.

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

>>> The draft Strategy includes a pressure analysis and preparation and implementation of wise use plans for existing and planned Ramsar areas.

River basin management bodies do not sufficiently appreciate the socio-economic values and benefits provided by wetlands. Despite the involvement of NGOs and other stakeholders in the decision-making process regarding water allocation, stakeholder recommendations are often not taken into account.

2.5 Have projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands been developed {2.4}

☒ A=Yes

#### 2.5 Additional Information

>>> Publications: "Catalog of good practices in the field of hydrotechnical works and maintenance works together with the establishment of principles for their implementation", "Good practices for river maintenance", "Water renaturation - a manual of good practices for the renaturation of surface waters".

Since 2020, local partnerships for water have been established in the counties. They aim to improve water management in their area.

In Warta Mouth NP Visitor Centre issues related to wetlands are presented.

Implementation:

LIFE13NAT/PL/000018

LIFE15CCM/DE/000138

State Forests - 151 hydrotechnical structures were constructed and the water storage capacity of forests increased.

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

☒ C=Partially

### 2.6 Additional Information

>>> There is no comprehensive database on the number of wetland treatment facilities, which are mostly utilized for domestic purposes.

Several facilities are available for demonstration:

- Poleski NP (Ramsar), works in an educational facility. More wetland treatment plants will be constructed as a result of the funds that have been obtained.
- Bialka, a hybrid wetland treatment facility in the province of Lublin, provides services to roughly 1,800 people.
- The wetland treatment facility Udrzynek (PLB140007 and PLH140011), which serves 2,300 people in 8 nearby municipalities.
- Moreover, sewage treatment ponds, which are naturally occurring bioreactors that purify the water they receive, are used in fishing farms.

## 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.

>>> Private sector representatives are typically encouraged to take part in initiatives and urged to help plan protection and carry out protection-related duties (such as Natura 2000 areas). Subsidies (water-environmental compensations) are available to fish farmers that engage in pro-ecological practices.

Nonetheless, this sector's operations typically do not directly implement the Ramsar Convention's principles. By rewetting drained peatlands, the proposed strategy intends to involve private firms in the implementation of greenhouse gas emission offsets.

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

### 3.2 Additional information

>>> The following initiatives were put into action:

- safeguarding a peat bog that supports *Swertia perennis* (Biebrza PN). InPost provided help for the project. Protection of DB Port Szczecin and LUX MED, two elevated peat bogs in SPN.
- WWF Polska and UPM Raflatac have been working together since 2021 on projects like river conservation. In 2021, 80 acres were acquired in the Rospuda Valley to create a private reserve with the help of Air Wick. It

collaborates with Millennium Bank as well.

- To protect wetlands, the outdoor equipment producer Cumulus gave PLN 200,000 to the Wetlands Conservation Center.

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

☒ A=Yes

### 3.3 Additional information

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

>>> Subsidies are available to fishermen who pledge to apply standards that beyond the fundamentals of good practice for a period of five years. One of the actions for aquaculture facilities in Natura 2000 regions could be to operate aquaculture in a way that is beneficial to birds.

Applications for AECS payments are open to land users. When the AECS measure's standards are followed, wetlands and wetland bird habitats are managed appropriately.

The 120 hectares of water-dependent non-forest scrub were felled by RDEP in Bialystok. The free transfer of cut wood served as an incentive for individual landowners to join the project.

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.

>>> A new requirement for the implementation of agri-environmental-climate measures and nature conservation initiatives is that they adhere to conservation action plans for the regions in which they are implemented.

## Target 4

Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6]

4.1 Does your country have a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {4.1}

☒ A=Yes

### 4.1 Additional information

>>> GDEP implemented the project Development of principles for the control and eradication of invasive alien species, along with the implementation of pilot activities and public education. Places of occurrence of selected IAS were indicated, including those covering wetlands.

Polish law specifies lists of invasive alien species posing a threat to the EU and Poland. The list does not include the American mink (its addition is currently being consulted). In 2024, the IGO lists were expanded by 3 species.

Information about IGOs: <https://geoserwis.gdos.gov.pl/mapy/>, <https://www.iop.krakow.pl/ias/projekt>, Central Register of IAS Data.

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

>>> The GDEP project included, among others, analyses of the impact of invasive species on the natural environment, including wetlands.

Distribution maps were prepared and the impact on nature was determined for 118 alien species occurring in Poland.

In 2021, as part of the development of the Strategy, the problem of invasive alien species was analyzed. It drew attention to the problem of hydrological disturbances that favor the spread of IASs, especially plants.

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

☒ E=# species

>>> 11

#### 4.3 Additional Information

>>> As part of the GDEP project, methods of combating 20 species were tested and 7 compendiums on plants and 2 on animals were developed.

Where necessary, protection plans for Natura 2000, national parks and nature reserves where habitats and species dependent on water are subject to protection include actions to combat/control the numbers of IASs. So far, the following alien species have been controlled or removed on a local scale: Sosnowsky's hogweed, western waterweed, Sakhalin and Japanese knotweed, small balsam, stepplebush, wild cucumber, Louisiana crayfish, ornamental turtles, American mink, raccoon.

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

☒ C=Partially

#### 4.4 Additional Information

>>> The effectiveness of actions in the field of combating invasive species was examined in the case of 10 priority species identified within the GDEP-IAS project: Carolina fanwort, western waterweed, hogweed, knotweed, balsam, stepplebush, wild cucumber, crayfish, turtles.

In addition, based on the analysis of available legal, methodological and financial tools, as well as the institutional context, action plans for invasive alien species will be developed in Poland by 2030.

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

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

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

#### Target 5

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

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

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

☒ D=Planned

#### 5.1 Additional information

>>> The draft Strategy together with a cost calculation determines the need to supplement the Polish list of areas covered by the Ramsar Convention and indicates the types of wetlands that should be included in the list. The list of proposed areas also includes transboundary areas. The draft Strategy has been subject to intra-ministerial consultations. It will have been subject to intra-ministerial opinions and agreements.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 17

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 17

#### 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

>>> No special management plans are being developed for Ramsar Sites. All these areas are covered by national nature conservation forms and included in the Natura 2000 network. Conservation tasks or plans have been established for:

- 9 Ramsar Sites in national parks (Biebrza, Narew, Warta Mouth, Slowinski, Wigry, Poleski, Tatra - 2 sites, Karkonosze)
- 7 nature reserves (Przemkow Fish Ponds, Lake of Seven Islands, Peatland of the Iżera River Valley, Czerwone bog woodland, Druzno Lake, Swidwie Lake, Milicz Fishponds)
- 1 Natura 2000 area (Karas Lake)

Planning documents are being prepared for the Vistula Mouth and the Luknajno Lake Ramsar Sites.

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

>>> 17

#### 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.

>>> Protection plans and protection task plans contain provisions on monitoring the implementation of protection activities. In areas where these documents have been implemented, it is possible to assess the effectiveness of their implementation.

Ecological effect assessment is also mandatory in the case of projects granted/implemented in the field of nature conservation. Their implementation always fits into the protection tasks of the protected area in which they are implemented.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 0

#### 5.6 Additional information

>>> In the case of national parks there are intersectoral advisory units - Scientific Councils of national parks, which include representatives of science, NGO, local governments, management authorities and landowners. Milicz Fishponds has an advisory and consultative team, which includes representatives of science, NGOs and managers.

The Council is an advisory and consultative body in the field of nature conservation.

In 2020, the Wetland Committee was established, which brings together experts from various fields and institutions. It is an advisory group of the GDEP dealing with the research, protection and administration of wetland areas at the national, regional and local levels.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 19

#### 5.7 Additional information

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

>>> Each established Ramsar Site in Poland is also covered by an additional legal form of nature protection. At the stage of creating each of these forms of nature protection, a detailed description of the natural values of the areas was prepared, along with their ecological characteristics. The update of the ecological characteristics is an element of long-term protection plans for protected areas constituting Ramsar Sites. All areas covered by the Ramsar Convention also have completed Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS), which include a description of the ecological character.

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 country updated RIS in the last 6 years. The next update of the Ramsar Information Sheets is included in the National Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention's Action Plan for 2023-2025 and will be carried out in 2025.

### Target 7

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

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

7.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced

changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {7.1}

☒ A=Yes

#### 7.1 Additional information

If “Yes”, please provide the source links or upload the source documents here describing the mechanisms established  
>>> There is no formal mechanism for informing the authorities, however, the following mechanisms are in place:

- The Act on the Prevention and Remediation of Environmental Damage - in the event of a threat of damage, a citizen is obliged to report this fact to the regional director for environmental protection and the provincial inspector for environmental protection, who initiates the damage procedure.
- In Natura 2000 areas, regional directorates report damage to the GDEP.
- The Act on Alien Species imposes on citizens the obligation to report IAS findings to local governments.

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}

☒ O=No Negative Change

#### 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

>>> In the period 2022-2024, there were no recorded cases of negative human-induced changes or probable changes in the ecological character of the areas covered by the Ramsar Convention. Environmental monitoring conducted in the areas does not indicate such changes.

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

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

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

#### Target 8

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

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

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

☒ C=In Progress

#### 8.1 Additional information

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

>>> Projects collecting information on wetlands have been implemented:

- GIS Wetlands - (out of date)
- Forest Data Bank
- Maps of the Hydrographic Division of Poland
- GDEP Project - Inventory of valuable natural habitats of the country, species occurring within them and creation of a Data Bank on Natural Resources
- Project - Restoration and preservation of marshlands, peat bogs and wetlands in Natura 2000 areas and Green Infrastructure
- Information on wetlands where environmental commitments are made under the RDP and the CAP SP 2023-2027

Inventory of wetlands in Natura 2000 areas (WETLANDS GREEN LIFE) - planned completion in 2027.

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

☒ C1=Partially

#### 8.2 Additional information

>>> The NWI was partially updated during the update of databases: the Natura 2000 database, the National Register of Forms of Nature Protection and the Hydrographic Division Map of Poland.

Detailed inventories aimed at determining objects, their status, threats, consistent in terms of the methods used, data analysis, planning and conducting field reconnaissance, are projects of local scope.

Data collected during monitoring the impact of the AECS on the environment are of a similar nature - uniform methodology, appropriate accuracy, precise spatial location.

During the development of plans for the protection tasks of Natura 2000 areas, wetlands were also partially listed.

### 8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ B=Irregularly  $\geq 7$  years

#### 8.3 Additional information

>>> Inwentarization of wetlands is updated irregularly when projects are carried out. There is no time schedule for wetlands inventories on national level.

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

☒ C=Partially

#### 8.4 Additional information

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

>>> The results of most projects, within which wetland area inventories were conducted, are publicly available in the form of online databases, books (widely available in electronic form on the contractor's websites), popular science articles. In addition, they are made available upon request under the Act of 2001 on Access to Public Information and the Act of 2008 on the Provision of Information on the Environment and its Protection, Public Participation in Environmental Protection and Environmental Impact Assessments.

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

>>> • GIS Wetlands - out-of-date

- Forest Data Bank: <https://www.bdl.lasy.gov.pl/portal/mapy>
- Hydrographic Division Maps of Poland
- Hydroportal: [https://wody.isok.gov.pl/imap\\_kzgw/](https://wody.isok.gov.pl/imap_kzgw/)
- Geoserwis: <https://geoserwis.gdos.gov.pl/mapy/>
- GDEP Reports on the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention
- Reports to the European Commission under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and Article 12 of the Birds Directive

8.6 Based on the information in NWI, if available, please provide the total area in square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>) for the extent of wetlands (according to the Convention on Wetland's definition) for the year of available data and provide the relevant disaggregated information in the box below. This information will also be used to report on SDG 6, Target 6.6, Indicator 6.6.1, for which the Convention is a co-custodian. {8.6}

☒ E=# km<sup>2</sup>

>>> 45 022,75

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>.

>>> Classification of the wetlands based on the Natura 2000 habitats.

#### 8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km <sup>2</sup> )
A -- Permanent shallow marine waters	0
B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds	0
C -- Coral reefs	0
D -- Rocky marine shores	111,2
E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores	0
F -- Estuarine waters	87
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	0,1



Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs	0
H -- Intertidal marshes	3,45
I -- Intertidal forested wetlands	0
J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons	909
K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons	0
Zk(a) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	0

## 8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km2)

>>> 1110,75

## 8.6 Inland Wetlands

	<b>Square kilometers (km2)</b>
L -- Permanent inland deltas	0
M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls	1200
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks	0
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes	3640
P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes	0
Q -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes	0
R -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats	0
Sp -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	0
Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	0
Tp -- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools	0
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils	31000
U -- Non-forested peatlands	2020
Va -- Alpine wetlands	0
Vt -- Tundra wetlands	0

W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands	0
Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	1368
Xp -- Forested peatlands	3504
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.	0
Zg -- Geothermal wetlands	0
Zk(b) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	0

## 8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

>>> 42732

## 8.6 Human-made wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
1 -- Aquaculture ponds.	700
2 -- Ponds	0
3 -- Irrigated land	0
4 -- Seasonally flooded agricultural land	0
5 -- Salt exploitation sites	0
6 -- Water storage areas	480
7 -- Excavations	0
8 -- Wastewater treatment areas	0
9 -- Canals and drainage channels, ditches	0
Zk(c) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	0

## 8.6 Human-made wetlands total (km2)

>>> 1180

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

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

*Please select only one per square.*

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

## 8.7 Additional Information

>>> a) Climate change adversely affects Ramsar Sites. Attempts are being made to improve the ecological character of some wetlands. Locally, they bring positive effects (SNP, WMNP, Swidwie Lake), but in general the condition is deteriorating. Land improvement,

understood in Poland primarily as land drainage, also has negative effects. Restoration of the network of drainage ditches, carried out without an appropriate EIA procedure, poses a threat to wetlands.

b) Inappropriate planning and implementation of hydrotechnical undertakings in the field of water improvement threaten the achievement of the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive and effective habitat protection in Natura 2000 areas.

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

*Please select only one per square.*

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

### 8.8 Additional Information

>>> The hydrological situation in Poland is currently difficult. Progressive climate change, and inappropriate water management (poorly functioning drainage systems, spatial management that does not take into account environmental conditions) negatively affect ecosystems, making them more susceptible to disturbances, and alien invasive species of plants and animals appear. The structure of habitats, biodiversity, and water resources are deteriorating (e.g. Slowinski NP - marine/coastal, Warta Mouth NP - terrestrial and of anthropogenic origin).

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

	Ye s
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 checked="" 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"/>

### 8.9 Additional Information

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

>>> no info

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

#### 8.10 Additional Information

>>> The draft Strategy plans pressure analysis and preparation and implementation of rational management plans (wise use) for existing and planned Ramsar areas.

The draft Strategy plans detailed inventory of peat bogs and rivers, and public disclosure of their results.

The draft Strategy plans actions to be carried out on a large scale, by various stakeholders in cooperation with Polish Waters, managing water management on a catchment and river basin scale.

### Target 9

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

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

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.1 Additional information

>>> The State Environmental Policy 2030 specifies tasks and designates entities responsible for their implementation also in the field of water protection and use.

Other documents also indicate the protection and reasonable use of wetlands: RDP for 2014-2020, CAP SP 2023-2027, Water Management Plans. The State Forests implement a policy promoting the reasonable use of wetlands. Their reasonable use is mainly used in protected areas (national parks, nature reserves, Natura 2000 areas).

Formal adoption of the draft Strategy has been initiated. The draft was subject to intra-ministerial consultations.

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 2022-2024, the obligations arising from the Ramsar Convention found its reflection in some legal acts. The following regulations were introduced:

- Program for combating water shortages for 2023-2027 with a perspective to 2030
- CAP SP 2023-2027
- 2nd update of the Water Management Plan

- Water Law
- National Urban Policy 2030
- PAF for the Natura 2000 network for 2021-2027
- Forest Act
- Regulation on the list of invasive alien species posing a threat to the Union and the list of invasive alien species posing a threat to Poland, remedial actions and measures aimed at restoring the natural state of ecosystems

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

>>> Water management used to be supervised by minister of the environment. Currently, this is subordinate to the MI. The key elements of water resources management in Poland: WFD, WMP. The system of planning and management of water resources on a river basin scale does not take into account the water needs of the ecosystems of some Ramsar Sites (Biebrza NP).

Poland is trying to integrate activities between various sectors to ensure coherent and effective management of water resources.

The remedial actions planned under 2ndWMP include the protection and restoration of wetland areas in estuarine sections of rivers.

9.4 Have communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {9.4}

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.4 Additional information

>>> Resolution X.19 has not been directly implemented, but there are partially implemented actions that reflect its approach.

In accordance with the requirements of the WFD, River Basin Management Plans, flood risk management plans and drought protection plans are subject to public consultation for a period of at least 6 months.

These plans include educational and promotional activities for the whole country, river basins or water reservoirs. They do not directly concern wetlands, but refer to sustainable water management, taking into account the requirements related to these areas. Local cooperation teams are established during the creation of protection task plans.

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

>>> 2ndWMP contains activities that improve the hydromorphological condition. Activities aimed at protecting, increasing and improving forest and soil retention in agricultural and urban areas have been planned. These activities are part of the DECP.

The State Forests are implementing a strategy to increase wetlands' role in mitigating or adapting to climate change.

The emerging Strategy proposes several complementary mechanisms for protection and large-scale rewetting of drained peatlands.

The PAF for the Natura 2000 network defines priority activities in the field of preserving and restoring the proper conservation status of marshes, peatlands and wetlands.

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

>>> One of the objectives of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 is to support the protection of valuable natural habitats (including wetlands) in Natura 2000 areas and beyond, as well as to improve water management and support the rational use of fertilization and pesticides and the protection of ecosystems that absorb carbon dioxide, including peat bogs. However, according to the publication by NGO, emissions from drained peat bogs are not properly reported in Poland.

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

[Emissions drained peatlands WWF](#)

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.7 Additional information

>>> CAP SP 2023-2027 provides support to nature-friendly agriculture. AECS include the following solutions: water retention on permanent grasslands, protection of habitats of endangered bird species, and extensive use of permanent grasslands. Since 2023, the "Water retention on permanent grasslands" eco-scheme has been in operation - support for farmers who retain water on their lands for at least 12 days, contributing to the reduction of its rapid runoff.

Under 2ndWMP, actions resulting from the plans for protected areas have been planned, which include the use of land enabling the protection and preservation of existing field marshes and water bodies.

9.8 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on: {9.7}

*Please select only one per square.*

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

#### 9.8 Additional information

>>> Examples of implemented projects:

- LIFE15CCM/DE/000138 Reduction of CO2 emissions through peatland renaturation in the Eastern Lowlands and Central Europe
- LIFE19 IPE/PL/000005 Analysis of the possibilities of increasing retention in forest, agricultural and urban areas in the Pilica River catchment area, in the context of maintaining and increasing retention capacities in the Central Vistula Water Region
- Reconstruction of the Odra River Ecosystem and Biodiversity (start of implementation - 2024). Five Voivodeship Funds for Environmental Protection and Water Management will provide PLN 14 million (~3 mln Euro) in subsidies for stocking the Oder, whose ecosystems suffered in the 2022 ecological disaster.

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}

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.9 Additional information

>>> In 2ndWMP, actions have been planned to increase retention in urban areas. Currently, around 20 local actions are being implemented as part of urban retention (blue-green infrastructure) with a total value of around PLN 155 million (EUR 36 million). The largest investments:

- Implementation of investments in the field of green-blue infrastructure in the municipalities belonging to the Union of Municipalities of the Wisloka River Basin
- With a passion against climate change - green-blue infrastructure in the Municipality of Czechowice-Dziedzice
- Revalorization and revitalization of green areas in Polanica-Zdroj, taking into account green-blue infrastructure for the needs of the city's adaptation to climate change.

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.10 Additional information

>>> Small wetlands are partially protected in agricultural areas by financial support (RDP). They have been excluded from afforestation. The establishment, maintenance and restoration of small wetlands are planned. Local authorities can protect such areas as ecological areas (one of the forms of protection). The following projects are being implemented:

- Chelonia - Protection Program for the European pond turtle in Wielkopolska (completed)
- LIFE19 IPE/PL/000005
- Comprehensive project for the adaptation of forests and forestry to climate change - small retention and

counteracting water erosion in lowland and mountain areas  
• 2024 - the State Forests are planning to implement the Forests for Wetlands project.

## 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?

☒ A=Yes

### 10.1 Additional Information

>>> Public consultations ensure local communities' participation in preparing area protection plans and spatial planning acts. Water management considers common interests and requires cooperation between public administration, water users and the local community.

Local communities' participation in the management of areas are regulated by legal acts:

- Nature Conservation Act
- Spatial Planning and Development Act
- Forest Act
- Water Law Act
- Act on Sharing Information on the Environment and Its Protection, Public Participation in Environmental Protection and Environmental Impact Assessments. Regulations do not provide for consultations with local residents at the environmental assessment stage or landowners in the areas of government-designated strategic investments.

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

>>> Some wetlands, including Ramsar Sites, have long been used for agricultural purposes or fishing by the local community. Without these activities, their current ecological character would be lost. Mowing and pastures in flood meadows also serve as a basic conservation tool in some areas. As part of the LIFE17NAT/PL/000018, Polish horses and Polish red cows are helping to revitalize the river delta. Pond management in the Ramsar Site Milicz Fishponds has been carried out since the 15th century. Local community representatives serve on advisory and consultative teams of these areas, influencing decisions and actions related to nature conservation.

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

>>> Cultural values and traditional knowledge about effective management of areas are taken into account when planning and implementing protection. The protection of habitats and species in Natura 2000 areas is based on traditional land management methods. These practices are the result of scientific research on the impact of various activities on valuable species and habitats, and not direct consultations of these methods with the inhabitants of the areas. Planning documents are subject to public consultations. This is particularly important in Ramsar Sites, where state-owned land is often leased to private users.

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 issues of local community participation in the management of areas, including wetlands, are regulated by the following legal acts:

- Nature Protection Act

- Spatial Planning and Development Act
- Forest Act
- Water Law Act
- Act on Provision of Information on the Environment and its Protection, Public Participation in Environmental Protection and Environmental Impact Assessments.

At the local level, national park councils operate in national parks - advisory bodies to the director, with representatives of local governments sitting on them. Consultation workshops and conferences for local stakeholders on the protection and sustainable management of wetlands are also held.

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

>>> Traditional, extensive use practices are promoted in the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 as part of agri-environmental-climate commitments, protecting, among others, wetland habitats (peatlands, wet meadows) and wetland bird habitats. Information and educational meetings are held as part of ongoing projects (e.g. LIFE Pilica, WaterLANDS, MERLIN) concerning the protection of wetlands.

### Target 11

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

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

☒ C1=Partially

#### 11.1 Additional information

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

>>> The benefits of wetlands/wetland ecosystem services have been analyzed in detail in the draft Strategy. Ecosystem services (without valuations) have been included to a varying extent in the RIS (Ramsar Information Sheet) of all 19 Polish Ramsar Sites: Biebrza NP, Czerwone bog woodland, Peatland of the Iżera River Valley, Druzno Lake, Karaś Lake, Karkonosze Subalpine peatbogs, Lake Luknajno, Narew NP, Warta Mouth NP, Poleski NP, Seven Island Lake, Slowinski NP, Milicz Fishponds, Przemków Fish Ponds, Swidwie Lake, Glacial Lakes in the Tatra NP, Peat bogs in the Tatra NP, Vistula River Mouth, Wigry NP.

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 11.2 Additional information

>>> The implemented wetland protection projects have an indirect impact on reducing poverty (new jobs, increased access to food), and on water and food safety (improvement of ecological conditions, inhibition of negative changes, improvement of water chemical parameters).  
As part of RDP and CAP SP 2023-2027, support is provided for the retention and protection of valuable natural habitats, which is a compromise between nature protection and agricultural production.  
Biebrza NP has been conducting renaturalization activities for a dozen or so years, currently as part of the LIFE13NAT/PL/000050 project. One of the effects should be increased water safety.

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 11.3 Additional Information

>>> As part of the project "Let's Remember the Wetlands", the Wetland Protection Center helped local activists fight for the disappearing wetlands. Together, they restored the local identity of these places, created a social base for their protection, and developed a strategy for action.

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

☒ C=Partially

#### 11.4 Additional information

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



>>> Public consultations allow local communities to influence their economic situation. Management plans for protected areas, including 17 of 19 Ramsar areas, involve public participation in the preparation and implementation of the document. Traditional farming methods are also considered. National parks lease land on large areas for agriculture to maintain natural habitats and wetland species. The Rural Development Program 2014-2020 and CAP SP 2023-2027 support extensive use of these areas, combining financial and economic benefits with nature conservation.

Most Ramsar Sites have developed tourism infrastructure that directs tourism to places where nature remains intact, benefiting both conservation and local income.

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

☒ C=Partially

#### 11.5 Additional information

>>> Following the applicable regulations (Nature Protection Act), cultural values, including the cultural values of wetlands, are considered when developing protection plans for national parks and nature reserves, including Ramsar Sites. Preserving cultural heritage is one of the objectives in the approved protection plans in Poleski NP (approved in 2020), Milicz Fishponds, KkNP (2021), TNP (2021). Protection plans for SNP, WMNP, WNP, and NNP are still in development or pending approval. The goal is to preserve, highlight and exhibit cultural heritage alongside its surroundings. The plans include protective measures aimed at protecting the cultural values of the areas.

## 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

>>> The draft Strategy sets strategic goals:

- Improving peatland biodiversity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from peatlands by 30%;
- Supporting biodiversity and natural processes in aquatic ecosystems and increasing water retention in riverside areas;
- Strengthening the protection of Ramsar Sites in Poland.

In 2020, the National Surface Water Renaturation Program was established. Main goals: proposing priority areas requiring renaturation, indicating proposals for actions in relation to surface water bodies.

However, NGOs postulate changes in water management and indicate the incomplete implementation of the WFD.

Water management authorities, State Forests, MARD, and local governments influence wetlands through project permits.

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

☒ C=Partially

#### 12.2 Additional information

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

>>> Polish Waters, as part of its activities aimed at protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems and ecosystems dependent on waters for the needs of 2ndWMP, has planned activities in the following areas:

In the Vistula River Basin:

- Renaturation of wetland areas - PLH220023
- Renaturation of wetland areas - nature reserves: "Słone Łąki, "Beka"
- Renaturation of wetland areas - "Mechelińskie Łąki" nature reserve.

In the Odra River Basin:

- Renaturation of wetland areas - PLH320017 (Włodarka region, Liwka Channel)
- Renaturation of wetland areas - PLH320019
- Renaturation of wetland areas - PLH320018 - implementation of protective measures for habitat 1330

Coastal salt flats (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

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	0	0	0
Inland	9453	146	9599
Human-made	0	0	0

### 12.3 Additional information

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

>>> The above-mentioned area is the minimum value resulting from the implementation of projects.

Planned/in progress (km2):

- LIFE19IPE/PL/000005 – 9200 km2
- LIFE19NAT/PL/000746 – 61 km2
- LIFE13NAT/PL/000050 – 134,5 km2
- LIFE20CCM/DE/001802 – 2,52 km2
- Restoration and improvement of geomorphological conditions of the Dłubnia River – 55,1 km2

Completed projects:

- LIFE17NAT/PL/000018 – 4 km2
- LIFE13NAT/PL/000018 – 4,3 km2
- The foundation of the Green Odra and Warta Valleys – 0,2 km2
- Protection of the Orava-Nowy Targ Peatlands – 1,83 km2
- Protection of habitats and species of non-forest areas dependent on water – 36,22 km2
- Irrigation of the Riverine Forests below the Malczyce Water Stage – 9,5 km2

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}

☒ C=Partially

### 12.4 Additional Information

If “yes” or “partially”, please indicate the progress in implementation

>>> Projects completed:

- LIFE15CCM/DE/000138 (2016-2022)
- Carpathians Unite - protection of the Orava-Nowy Targ Peatlands (2022-2024)

Projects in progress:

- LIFE20 CCM/DE/001802 (2021-2026)
- LIFE21-IPN-PL-WETLANDS-GREEN-LIFE/101069640 (2022-2032)

CAP SP for 2023-2027 makes the receipt of payments dependent on farmers meeting requirements related to, among others, environmental and climate protection (GAEC standards). Concerning wetlands, GAEC 4, 5 and 6 standards have been in force since 2023 (buffer zones along watercourses; tillage management contributing to reducing the risk of soil degradation and erosion; maintaining soil vegetation cover. GAEC 2 - protection of peatlands and wetlands will be in force from 2025).

## Target 13

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10 and 14]

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

Please select only one per square.

a) Energy	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Mining	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

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

### 13.1 Additional Information

>>> The existing and planned protection plans for national parks and Natura 2000 areas address threats from the above sectors for nature conservation, and also identify possible ways to prevent threats originating from these sectors and to balance conservation and sectoral needs. The majority of activities are aimed at minimizing or compensating the negative impact of human activities on nature, including reducing tourism pressure.

National parks and NGOs also conduct (or plan) land purchases, both wetlands and surrounding areas, in order to improve their stability and the condition of species habitats (including BNP, KNP, WNP, WMNP - planned, LOS, NC).

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

☒ A=Yes

### 13.2 Additional information

>>> The body developing the draft document is responsible for conducting the strategic environmental impact assessment. This can be done after consultation with:

- the General Director for Environmental Protection, if the documents prepared and amended by central or national government administration bodies
- the regional directors for environmental protection - for other documents
- the maritime office director - for documents concerning marine areas
- the Chief Sanitary Inspector - when the documents are prepared and amended by central/national government administration bodies
- the state district sanitary inspector - for local spatial development plans and studies of conditions and directions of municipal spatial development
- the provincial sanitary inspector - documents other than those mentioned above.

### 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}

☒ C=Some Cases

### 13.3 Additional information

>>> National law requires an environmental impact assessment (EIA) for projects with potentially significant environmental impacts (including wetlands), especially Natura 2000 areas. The catalogue of projects requiring EIA is listed in the regulation of the Council of Ministers.

However, decisions on a project's impact are up to various bodies and are interpreted differently. The principle of cumulative impact is not treated sufficiently, investments are often divided into smaller stages, which are often considered as not requiring an assessment. Even if assessments are conducted, they are funded by the

investor, lacking impartial and substantive oversight. Therefore, these procedures need to be refined.

### 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.

>>> Poland participates in the Regional Initiative of the Ramsar Convention - the Carpathian Wetland Initiative. As part of this initiative, representatives of the country took part in international workshops on the restoration of wetlands in the Czech Republic in 2023. During the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in 2020, Poland took over the chairmanship of the Convention for the years 2021-2023. Numerous conferences and meetings of the Parties were held in the country, including the conference closing the Centralparks project. Poland also coordinated the work of the Working Groups on Transport and Tourism.

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).

>>> Within the LIFE20 CCM/DE/001802 project Multi-actor landscape and technical innovations for the restoration of peatland ecosystems (LIFE Multi-Peat) implemented by Poland, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland, a working group on European peatland policy was established. The Wetland Protection Centre and the University of Warsaw are part of the WaterLANDS project consortium. The project is led by University College Dublin in Ireland and brings together 32 organizations from the research, industry, government and non-profit sectors from 14 European countries.

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

d) Local/site level	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress <input 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

>>> • In 2024, the procedure for adopting the national Strategy began, the draft is currently undergoing intra-ministerial consultations. The national program for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity is being revised, leading to a program and action plan. The country follows the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, and the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the restoration of natural resources.

- Voivodeships develop regional environmental protection programs, which may include CEPA elements regarding wetlands.
- CEPA activities are integrated within the framework of river basin management plans.
- CEPA activities are implemented by local governments, NGOs and local communities.

### 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

☒ G=More than #

>>> 2

### 16.2 Additional information

>>> Many educational centers throughout the country emphasize the importance of wetland ecosystems. Protection and sustainable use of wetland areas are discussed in the educational offer of many national and landscape parks, forest districts, on educational trails, where the above content is placed on thematic boards, at stops near water reservoirs, marshes and peat bogs. Examples of the most recently established centers:

- Mlynarzowka Nature Education Centre (NNP - 2020),
- Ujście Warty Visitor Centre (WMNP - 2021),
- Nature and Education Center Pałac Sobieszów (KkNP - 2023),
- Tatra Archive of Planet Earth (TNP - 2024),
- Jizera Adaptation Center (2023), The Masurian Center for Biodiversity and Nature Education (2023).

### 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) The law requires the participation of all groups of interested entities in the process of preparing protection plans and plans of protective tasks for protected areas with the status of areas covered by the Ramsar Convention: national parks, nature reserves and Natura 2000 sites.

b) New proposed areas covered by the Ramsar Convention are reviewed by local governments. Their negative opinion may result in the area not being presented. They also provide opinions on draft management plans for areas that are simultaneously covered by national forms of nature protection (national parks, nature reserves).

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

☒ A=Yes

### 16.4 Additional information

>>> In 2020 the Wetland Committee was established, consisting of 50 members: managers of sites covered by the Ramsar Convention, representatives of institutions dealing with the protection of wetland areas, including relevant ministries, government agencies, local authorities, NGOs, scientific institutes, landowners and managers, national contact points of other multilateral agreements. The aim of the Wetland Committee is to promote the objectives of the Ramsar Convention on the widest possible field and to support the National Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention in its implementation in Poland.

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

>>> There are plans to establish an interministerial team in 2024 for wetlands protection at the ministerial level.

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

*Please select only one per square.*

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

#### 16.6 Additional information

>>> a) GDEP and other institutions publish reports, guidelines and other information materials on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention available to all managers of areas covered by the Convention. In 2023, technical report no. 11 was also translated into Polish and distributed. The National Secretariat of the Convention corresponds with managers of areas covered by the Ramsar Convention in the field of project applications, designation of new areas and organizes conferences and workshops.

b) Official communication

c) Consultations on official legal acts and strategies, including those related to the protection and management of wetlands, conferences and training.

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

>>> World Wetlands Day is celebrated in Poland every year. Numerous events, lectures, trips, workshops and conferences on wetlands are held. Numerous educational materials are published on the GDEP website, with an emphasis on topics selected by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat for a given year. The event is organized by NGOs (including the Wetlands Protection Center in cooperation with the Faculty of Biology of the University of Warsaw), as well as budgetary units managing Ramsar Sites (national parks, RDEP). Articles, interviews and TV/radio programs are published in traditional and social media, which increase awareness of wetlands and their importance.

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

>>> Answer as in 16.7

World Wetlands Day is celebrated in Poland every year. Numerous events, lectures, trips, workshops and conferences on wetlands are held. Numerous educational materials are published on the GDEP website, with an emphasis on topics selected by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat for a given year. The event is organized

by NGOs (including the Wetlands Protection Center in cooperation with the Faculty of Biology of the University of Warsaw), as well as budgetary units managing Ramsar Sites (national parks, RDEP). Articles, interviews and TV/radio programs are published in traditional and social media, which increase awareness of wetlands and their importance.

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

>>> Information on Ramsar Sites: their location and connection with RIS on the website of the Ramsar Secretariat is available on the GDEP Geoserwis platform. The National Contact Point has issued a leaflet containing synthetic information about Polish Ramsar Sites. The websites of most entities managing the sites (mainly national parks) contain information on the status of Ramsar Sites assigned to a given area and detailed information. Most projects implemented in Ramsar Sites also have dedicated websites with a detailed description of the activities undertaken. Numerous scientific and popular science studies or nature monographs are available on some of the areas.

### 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

>>> no info

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

#### 17.2 Additional information

>>> no info

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

#### 17.3 Additional information

for example from which countries or agencies

>>> no info

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.

>>> Poland co-finances following projects:

- LIFE projects: national funds - EUR 35.8 million (EU: EUR 58 million)
- RDP 2014-2020 (63% EU) and CAP SP 2023-2027 (80% EU): PLN 549.6 million (packages: Protection of

valuable habitats and endangered bird species in Natura 2000 areas and beyond)

- OPI&E 2014-2020: national funds EUR 1.6 million (EU: EUR 9.5 million)
- NFEPWM: EUR 2.7 million from Poland (EU: EUR 8.5 million)
- PFEPWM: PLN 2.07 million
- Forestry: small retention, species and habitat protection projects in 2022-2024 - PLN 268.9 million (EU: PLN 179 million).

## Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels

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

☒ A=Yes

### 18.1 Additional information

>>> Focal points of other MEAs were invited to participate in the Wetlands Committee.

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

☒ C=Partially

### 18.2 Additional information

>>> The UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre (within the structure of the National Foundation for Environmental Protection) is not formally part of/within the structures of UNEP, but is an entity associated and in partnership with UNEP, the only one in Poland. During this year's UNEA-6 summit, contacts were established between representatives of UNEP/GRID-Warsaw and the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

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 type="checkbox"/>
d) UNFCCC	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Global Environment Facility	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) UNDP	<input 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.

>>> BNP has cooperated with UNEP/GRID-Warsaw under the Re:Generation program. Funding: PLN 39,606 (2023-2024).

IOPs support includes cooperation through working groups, problem analysis and taking actions. OTOP (Birdlife International partner), the Wetlands Protection Center (partner and founding member of Wetlands International European Association), IUCN members (the Institute of Nature Conservation PAS, the Institute of Environmental Protection) and WWF Poland are actively engaged in wetland protection.

KNP received EUR 68,819 under the project "Supporting European UNESCO biosphere reserves as model sites for biodiversity recovery and climate change mitigation", used to finance works improving the condition of wetland habitats.



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}

☒ C=Partially

#### 18.4 Additional information

>>> As part of the LIFE20CCM/DE/001802 project, Poland, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland, established a working group on European peatland policy.

The Wetland Protection Centre and the University of Warsaw are part of the consortium in the WaterLANDS project, where KNP is involved as an associated partner. The project is run by University College Dublin in Ireland and brings together 32 organizations from 14 European countries.

KNP is a co-beneficiary in the MERLIN project and a member of the EUROSITE organization, actively participating in the peatland working group alongside other European conservation organizations.

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 18.5 Additional information

>>> Main transboundary wetland systems:

- rivers and river basins: Odra Valley, Bug Valley
- peat bogs of the Jizera Mountains
- subalpine peat bogs of the Karkonosze Mountains
- Szczecin Lagoon
- Vistula Lagoon
- Orava-Nowy Targ peat bogs
- Polesie peat bogs
- Białowieża Forest

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 18.6 Additional information

>>> EU Water Framework Directive: Poland, as a member of the European Union, implements the WFD, which promotes integrated water resources management at the river basin level. River basin planning and management is based on comprehensive water management plans. Regional Water Management Boards are responsible for water management at the regional level and cooperate with other countries in transboundary river basins.

Poland participates in international river basin commissions, such as the Odra Protection Commission against Pollution and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, which coordinate the management of transboundary waters.

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

>>> Natura 2000: Poland is part of an European network of protected areas aimed at preserving biodiversity, including the protection of migratory species and their habitats. In some of these areas, migratory species are the subject of protection (e.g. WMNP), so activities are carried out aimed at maintaining/improving the conditions of the habitats of these species.

BirdLife International: The Polish partner - OTOP, which is involved in the protection of migratory birds and their habitats.

One of the goals of the LIFE13NAT/PL/000018 project is to protect the habitats of migratory and wintering wetland birds (Anseriformes).

## 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

>>> no info

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

☒ A=Yes

### 19.2 Additional Information

>>> The draft Strategy takes into account the provisions and requirements of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

### 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

>>> The current core curriculum of general education for secondary schools covers wetland-related topics in geography and biology, while primary schools address ecology and environmental protection, including issues of maintaining aquatic ecosystem balance. There are courses and specializations at universities focusing on water resources management and wetland protection.

One of the goals of the draft Strategy is to urgently supplement the curricula in secondary schools and universities with content on peatland rewetting.

The Strategy plans to introduce mandatory education on river renaturation in technical schools and universities in fields like environmental engineering, water management, agriculture, and forestry.

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

#### a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ G=More than #

>>> 6

#### b) at other wetlands

☒ G=More than #

>>> 19

### 19.4 Additional information

>>> Training programs and workshops increasing skills and knowledge are organized for wetland managers. The Forest Management and Geodesy Office organizes field workshops "Peatland ecosystems in the Natura 2000 network: inventory, protection and restoration" as part of the Wetlands Green Life project. The Wetland Protection Centre organized two editions of the Summer Wetland School. The field training was attended by employees of NGOs and public administration dealing with nature conservation practice and planning, and included visits to both Ramsar Sites and other wetland areas.

Conferences, including those organized as part of implementation projects, also have a training effect.

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

☒ A=Yes

### 19.5 Additional information

>>> Previous national reports were used to monitor the implementation of the Convention. The previous national report was used to prepare the draft Strategy.

