RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

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Section 1: Institutional Information

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

Name of Contracting Party

The completed National Report **must be accompanied by a letter** in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP15 National Report. It can be attached to this question using the "Manage documents" function (blue symbol below)
Link to sample National Report Submission Letter: https://www.ramsar.org/document/national-reports-cop15-sample-letter
››› Portugal

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

National_Report_Submission_Letter_Portugal_signed.pdf - National Report Submission Letter

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority
››› Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF)

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title
››› Nuno Banza, Chairman of the Board of Directors

Mailing address
››› Av. Dr. Alfredo Magalhães Ramalho 1, 1495-165 Algés, Portugal

Telephone
››› 00 351 213 507 900

Email
››› nuno.banza@icnf.pt

Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title
››› João Pargana, Head of the Conservation and Monitoring Division

Mailing address
››› Av. Dr. Alfredo Magalhães Ramalho 1, 1495-165 Algés, Portugal

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

Name and title
››› 1) Ana Mendes; 2) Miguel Geraldes

Name of organisation
››› 1) Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture, Environment and Development (MED), University of Évora; 2) Centre for Geographical Studies (CEG), Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning (IGOT), University of Lisbon and Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF)

Mailing address
››› 1) Pólo da Mitra, Apartado 94, 7002-554 Évora, Portugal; 2) Rua Branca Edmée Marques, Edifício IGOT, Cidade Universitária, 1600-276 Lisboa, Portugal

Telephone
››› 1) 00 351 931 136 897; 2) 00 351 965 095 808

Email
››› 1) aimendes@uevora.pt; 2) miguelbgeraldes@gmail.com

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

Name and title
››› Cristina Girão Vieira

Name of organisation
››› Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF)

Mailing address
››› Av. Dr. Alfredo Magalhães Ramalho 1, 1495-165 Algés, Portugal

Telephone
››› 00 351 213 507 900

Email
››› cristina.vieira@icnf.pt

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

Name and title
››› Teresa Maria da Silva Lemos

Name of organisation
››› GEOTA - Group of Territory Planning and Environment Studies (NGO)

Mailing address
››› Rua Alberto Nunes Miguel, nº 28, 2500-287 - Caldas da Rainha

Telephone
››› 00 351 919 853 965

Email
››› ceept.geota@gmail.com

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)
››› Increased awareness of the populations and local authorities on the value of wetlands and its contribution to climate adaptation and mitigation.

2)
››› Increased number of events and activities held each year in celebration of World Wetlands Day.

3)
››› Significant increase in the number of wetland restoration projects implemented.

4)
››› Increased appreciation of wetlands socio-cultural heritage and historical legacy.

5)
››› Significant increase in the number of projects and actions that aim to manage and control invasive species in wetland ecosystems.

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

1)
››› Lack of effective management plans for most national Ramsar sites.

2)
››› Nonexistence of a National Wetlands Inventory.

3)
››› Increased impacts of climate change on wetlands in general.

4)
››› Increasing intensive agriculture in same areas, seriously threatening specific wetland habitats and water supply.

5)
››› Rapid expansion of many invasive alien species in wetland ecosystems.

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

1)
››› Continued control and management of the most harmful invasive species.

2)
››› Development of a National Wetlands Inventory.

3)
››› Establishment of an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a National Ramsar/ Wetlands Committee.

4)
››› Strengthen the involvement and awareness of populations into wetland conservation.

5)
››› Update and complete the Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) and its maps for all Sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance.

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

››› Yes, assistance on cost effective management and restoration measures for wetlands, guidance on costs and law/governance options.

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 recommend involvement in Water4All partnership.

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.
››› No general comments.

G. On the basis of your indications above, list possible areas where change is necessary for the achievement of gender equality.
››› No general comments.

H. Please describe lessons learnt in the context of wetlands and gender equality work in your country.
››› No general comments.

I. If possible, please list gender-related policies, strategies and action plans in place relevant to wetlands in your country.
››› Currently, there are no gender-related policies, strategies and action plans specific to wetlands in place in Portugal. However, there are some projects that promote gender equality and women's empowerment, such as the Ocean Alive's 'Guardiãs do Mar' project, which supports women from the Sado river's fishing community who work to protect seagrass meadows.

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

Guardiãs do Mar

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).
››› In order to promote youth participation in nature conservation, the Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth (IPDJ) has developed a program of Youth Volunteering for Nature and Forests, that includes activities of monitoring and restoring aquatic ecosystems, such as rivers, estuaries and other types of wetlands. The Portuguese Environment Agency (APA) has also developed a program of Environnmental Voluntering for Water, that promotes the conservation and sustainability of freshwater and coastal ecosystems by organising volunteer campaigns to monitor water resources in the region of Algarve.

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

Environnmental Voluntering for Water
Youth Volunteering for Nature and Forests

K. Please list the names of the organizations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report.
››› Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF), Public Institute; Regional Coordination and Development Commission of Alentejo (CCDR Alentejo), Public Institute; Portuguese Environment Agency (APA), Public Institute; Institute of Forests and Nature Conservation (IFCN), Autonomous Region of Madeira, Public Institute; University of Évora; Municipality of Ponte de Lima (Bertiandos and S. Pedro of Arcos Lagoons Ramsar Site); Municipality of Figueira da Foz (Mondego Estuary Ramsar Site); Municipality of Alpiarça (Paul da Gouxa local Natural Reserve); Association of Defense of Paul da Tornada (PATO), NGO; Group of Territory Planning and Environment Studies (GEOTA), NGO.

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

University of Évora
Municipality of Alpiarça
Portuguese Environment Agency (APA)
Group of Territory Planning and Environment Studies (GEOTA)
Association of Defense of Paul da Tornada (PATO)
Municipality of Figueira da Foz
Municipality of Ponte de Lima
Institute of Forests and Nature Conservation (IFCN)
Regional Coordination and Development Commission of Alentejo (CCDR Alentejo)

Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF)

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

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

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

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.
[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15]

Target 1

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

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

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

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

1.1 Additional information

››› a) In Portugal there is no specific national policy or strategy for wetland management, nonetheless, various policy instruments are in place, such as the EU Water Framework Directive, the National Water Plan and the Hydrographic Region Management Plans witch aim to protect inland surface water bodies, coastal water

bodies, transitional water bodies and groundwater bodies. There is also a National Strategy for the Rehabilitation of Rivers and Streams.
b) There is a National Strategy for Poverty Eradication for the period 2021-2030 and its Action Plan for the years 2022-2025, however there are no measures specific to wetland issues.
c) There are several plans, namely the National Water Plan, the Hydrographic Region Management Plans, the Management Plans of Public Water Reservoirs and the Regional Water Efficiency Plans.
d) Regarding coastal resources, there are the Coastal Programmes and the Coastal Management Plans. Regarding marine resources, there is the National Maritime Spatial Management Situation Plan for the Mainland, Madeira and Extended Continental Shelf subdivisions. The National Maritime Spatial Management Situation Plan for the Azores subdivision is curently being developted.
e) The National Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management.
f) The National Forestry Strategy.
g) The Portuguese Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan includes specific measures to protect wetlands.
h) The National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity 2030.
j) There is the Tourism Strategy 2027 and the National Nature Tourism Program, however there are no measures specific to wetland issues.
k) The Legislative Decree no. 555/99, of 16th December, establish the legal framework for urbanisation and building.
n) Regarding aquaculture there are the Strategic Plan for Aquaculture 2021-2030 and the Plan for Aquaculture in Transition Waters for mainland Portugal. Regarding fisheries there's the Inland Fisheries Act.
p) There's the Strategic Plan for Water Supply and Pluvial and Wastewater Management 2030.

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

National Maritime Spatial Management Situation Plan for the Mainland, Madeira and Extended Continental Shelf subdivisions

Action Plan for the National Strategy for Poverty Eradication 2022-2025 (Plano de Ação da Estratégia Nacional de Combate à Pobreza 2022-2025)

National Strategy for Poverty Eradication 2021-2030 (Estratégia Nacional de Combate à Pobreza 2021-2030)

Strategic Plan for Water Supply and Pluvial and Wastewater Management 2030 (Plano Estratégico para o Abastecimento de Água e Gestão de Águas Residuais e Pluviais 2030)

Inland Fisheries Act (Lei da pesca nas águas interiores)

Plan for Aquaculture in Transition Waters for mainland Portugal (Plano para a Aquicultura em Águas de Transição para Portugal continental)

Strategic Plan for Aquaculture 2021-2030 (Plano Estratégico para a Aquicultura 2021-2030)

Legal framework for urbanisation and building (Regime jurídico da urbanização e edificação)

National Nature Tourism Program (Programa Nacional de Turismo de Natureza)

Tourism Strategy 2027 (Estratégia para o Turismo 2027)

National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity 2030 (Estratégia Nacional de Conservação da Natureza e Biodiversidade 2030)

Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan – Portugal (Plano Estratégico da Política Agrícola Comum)

National Forestry Strategy (Estratégia Nacional para as Florestas)

National Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (Estratégia Nacional para a Gestão Integrada da Zona Costeira)

Coastal Management Plans (Planos de Ordenamento da Orla Costeira)

Coastal Programmes (Programas da Orla Costeira)

Regional Water Efficiency Plans (Planos Regionais de Eficiência Hídrica)

Management Plans of Public Water Reservoirs (Planos de Ordenamento de Albufeiras de Águas Públicas)

National Strategy for the Rehabilitation of Rivers and Streams (Estratégia Nacional da Reabilitação de Rios e Ribeiras - EN3r)

Hydrographic Region Management Plans (Planos de Gestão das Regiões Hidrográficas)

National Water Plan (Plano Nacional da Água)

Target 2

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

2.1 Have the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands and the additional guidance on tools and methodologies been brought to the attention of national ministries and/or agencies at different levels of territorial organizations (Resolutions VIII.1, VIII.2)? {2.1}
☑ B=No

2.2 Have assessments of environmental flow been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands? {2.2}
☑ B=No

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?

☑ X=Unknown

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
››› In Portugal, good practices in water allocation and management for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands have been considered in decision-making processes, but not always according to the Ramsar Guidelines.

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
››› Examples of these projects are:
1. TraceLands - Ecogeomorphic Trajectories in Ria Formosa Wetlands. TraceLands aims to use imagery to characterize the past functional traits in the Ria Formosa wetlands (i.e., habitats and edge variability, and plant species coverage) and conclude about salt marsh adaptation and resilience under distinct forcing factors (physical, ecological and anthropogenic), information that is fundamental for preserving these habitats and sustaining their ecosystem services in the future.
2. SWITCH - Fortnightly switching of residual flow drivers in poorly described estuaries. Residual currents in estuaries correspond to the average result of one or more tidal cycles. Their knowledge is therefore extremely important for water quality management and the study of ecological processes.
3. MONITAIA - Monitorization of the inland and transitional water bodies from Azores River Basin District.
4. ProBioMar – Modelling processes and functions of lagoon ecosystems: a better management and conservation of marine biological resources. ProBioMar aims to contribute for the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and aquatic ecosystems within the framework of sustainable fishing activities, contributing to the effective management and conservation of marine biological resources, taking Ria de Aveiro as a case of study.
5. NATURE - Nature-based solutions to reduce antibiotics, pathogens and antimicrobial resistance in aquatic ecosystems. The aim of the NATURE project is to provide scientific evidence about the use of nature-based solutions for water treatment at the catchment scale. Characterisation of the Lima river estuary evaluating the potential of salt marshes to remove/reduce pollutants contamination and will contribute for risk assessment and reduction evaluation due to the implementation of nature based solutions.
6. AQUASADO - Promoting Sustainable Aquaculture in the Sado Estuary. The project aims to study the quality of Sado water, assessing the system’s carrying capacity, with a view to the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Sado estuary.
7. Rivers2Restore – Rivers2Restore is a collection of 11 flagship river restoration projects across the EU that are bringing rivers degraded by human activity back to health by restoring nature. In Portugal, the restoration of the Vascão River must involve the elimination of 17 obsolete river barriers along the river, so that river connectivity can be fully recovered.
8. GI4Sado - Development of an Integrated Management Model as a Support Tool for the Governance of the Sado Estuary. This project aims to find a solution to fill the gap of the lack of available information, through the creation of an integrated management model to support the governance of the Sado Estuary.
9. REWET - REstoration of WETlands to minimise emissions and maximise carbon uptake – a strategy for long term climate mitigation. The projects aims to study the impact management options have on ecosystems services provided by wetlands. Paul da Gouxa wetland has been used as a demo site.

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

REWET - REstoration of WETlands to minimise emissions and maximise carbon uptake – a strategy for long term climate mitigation

GI4Sado - Development of an Integrated Management Model as a Support Tool for the Governance of the Sado Estuary

AQUASADO - Promoting Sustainable Aquaculture in the Sado Estuary

Rivers2Restore

TraceLands - Ecogeomorphic Trajectories in Ria Formosa Wetlands

SWITCH - Fortnightly switching of residual flow drivers in poorly described estuaries

ProBioMar – Modelling processes and functions of lagoon ecosystems: a better management and conservation of marine biological resources

NATURE - Nature-based solutions to reduce antibiotics, pathogens and antimicrobial resistance in aquatic ecosystems

MONITAIA - Monitorization of the inland and transitional water bodies from Azores River Basin District

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

2.6 Additional Information
››› Constructed wetlands have been used for the treatment of municipal or domestic wastewater in some cities and communities in Portugal. So much so, that, in 2024, the Services Regulatory Authority for Water and Waste (ERSAR) added to its Service Quality Assessment System an indicator specific for accounting the number of constructed wetlands in Portugal. However, the results for the year of 2023 have not been published yet.
There were also implemented some projects that focus in constructed wetlands as wastewater treatment technology, for instance, (1) the project CIRQUA - Integrated approaches at local scale for enhancing water reuse efficiency and sustainable soil fertilization from wastewater's recovered nutrients, that aims to improve nature-based solutions, focusing on constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment and water recovery in rural areas, (2) the project LIFE RENATURWAT - Integrating circular economy and biodiversity in sustainable wastewater treatments based on constructed wetlands, that aims to demonstrate that it is possible to obtain reclaimed water from WWTP effluents through the combination of nature-based solutions and industrial waste, to produce a high-quality water resource suitable for environmental uses, such as the recovery/conservation of wetlands, and (3) the project LIFE Natural Adapt 4 Rural Areas, that aims to implement innovative and demonstrative adaptation measures to climate change that contribute to sustainable water management in the Fradelos River Basin, making economic activities and the sustainability of water resources compatible, despite the impacts of climate change, taking into account strategies and obligations of beneficiaries but also of EU policies, which includes as one of its activities the construction of a artificial wetland in a mud pond wo re-use and convert it to an artificial wetland.
Adiditionally, at the Ramsar site of Lagoa de Santo André and Lagoa da Sancha, in a former Wastewater Treatment Plant, now a Pumping Station, one of the tanks has been adapted and managed to provide better conditions for waterbirds, thereby creating an interpretive space to support local schools.

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

LIFE Natural Adapt 4 Rural Areas

LIFE RENATURWAT - Integrating circular economy and biodiversity in sustainable wastewater treatments based on constructed wetlands

CIRQUA - Integrated approaches at local scale for enhancing water reuse efficiency and sustainable soil fertilization from wastewater's recovered nutrients

Guide for Assessment of the Quality of Water and Waste Services Provided to Users - 4th Generation Assessment System

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}
☑ B=No

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

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

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

3.2 Additional information

››› Both on Ramsar Sites and Wetlands in general there are some cases of private sector having undertaken activities or actions for the conservation, wise use and management, but it is not generalized. For example, the Gulbenkian Blue Carbon project and the SEAGHORSE 2021-2023 project. The Gulbenkian Blue Carbon project is spearheaded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and aims to map and characterise the blue carbon ecosystems that, from north to south of the country, have the potential to sequester carbon dioxide. The SEAGHORSE 2021-2023 project is funded by Belmiro de Azevedo Foundation, and aims to contribute to the reconstruction of a seagrass meadow and its repopulation by seahorses in a sanctuary in the Ria Formosa.

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

Gulbenkian Blue Carbon
SEAGHORSE 2021-2023

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).
››› A number of projects undertaken by universities and public administration with the aim of protecting and restoring wetland ecosystems are public or EU funded. Furthermore, there are financing mechanisms for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Namely, through the Portuguese Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan, the Portuguese State provides financial benefits in the form of subsidies to incentive the conservation and wise use of wetlands, in order to protect bird species in rice fields and other types of wetlands.
In the Autonomous Region of the Azores in the scope of PRORURAL + Program (Program for Rural Development in the Azores Autonomous Region) there is a measure for financial support to conserve several types of habitats in Natura 2000 Network areas, where it includes Peatlands habitats.
Additionally, the Autonomous Region of the Azores is also implementing the two LIFE integrative projects: LIFE IP Azores Natura and LIFE IP CLIMAZ, both promoting conservation, restoration and wise use of wetlands.

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

LIFE IP CLIMAZ
LIFE IP Azores Natura
Scheme of application of funding for action programmes in sensitive areas
PRORURAL + Program (Program for Rural Development in the Azores Autonomous Region)
Protection of bird species in rice fields and other wetlands
Portuguese Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan (Plano Estratégico da Política Agrícola Comum)

3.4 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which lead to degradation or loss of wetlands? {3.4}
☑ B=No

Target 4

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

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

4.1 Additional information

››› The Legislative Decree no. 92/2019, of 10th July, that determines the legal regime applicable to the control, detention and introdution into the wild and repopulation of exotic species of flora and fauna, includes a National List of Invasive Species that, although it’s not specific to wetlands, it includes aquatic species. Regional legislation for Madeira includes a Regional List of Invasive Species. Regional legislation for Azores also has a list of fauna and flora invasive alien species or with known ecological risk. None of the lists referred

above is specific for wetlands despite including some species occurring in wetlands.
There have also been projects that contributed to a national list of invasive alien species present in Portugal or with a high risk of invansion, like the LIFE INVASAQUA, that published a List of Potential Aquatic Alien Species in the Iberian Peninisula.
There is also a collaborative platform (environmental citizenship) for the inventory of invasive plant species throughout the national territory, which includes aquatic plants (Invasive plants in Portugal).

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

Legislative Decree no. 92/2019, of 10th July - Determines the legal regime applicable to the control, detention and introdution into the wild and repopulation of exotic species of flora and fauna, and includes a National List of Invasive Species.
Regional Legislative Decree no. 15/2012/A, of 2nd April (Açores) - Establishes the legal regime of nature conservation and biodiversity, and includes a list of fauna and flora invasive alien species or with known ecological risk.
Invasive plants in Portugal - Collaborative platform for the inventory of invasive plant species throughout the national territory.
List of Potential Aquatic Alien Species in the Iberian Peninisula (LIFE INVASAQUA)
Regional Legislative Decree no. 17/2023/M, of 11th April (Madeira) - States that the possession, import to the region and introduction into the wild of any alien species is forbidden, and includes a Regional List of Invasive Species.

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

4.2 Additional information
››› There are no national policies or guidelines specific for wetlands concerning invasive species control and management. However, national and regional legislation establish precautionary measures at a general level, namely prohibition of dissemination or release of alien species' specimens for the purpose of establishing populations of these species in the wild. The Legislative Decree no. 92/2019, of 10th July, determines the legal regime applicable to the control, detention and introdution into the wild and repopulation of exotic species of flora and fauna. The Regional Legislative Decree no. 17/2023/M, of 11th April states that the possession, import to the region and introduction into the wild of any alien species is forbidden, and the Regional Legislative Decree no. 15/2012/A, of 2nd April, establishes the legal regime of nature conservation and biodiversity.
There are National Plans for species that potential impact wetlands: National Action Plan for the control fo the Red Swamp Crayfish in mainland Portugal, Action Plan for the control of the Pacific Oyster in mainland Portugal, Action Plan and Control Project for the African Clawed Frog.
Aditionally, in Azores the 'Regional Plan of Erradication and Control of Invasive Flora Species in Sensitive Areas' includes work done in wetlands.

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

Regional Plan of Erradication and Control of Invasive Flora Species in Sensitive Areas
Action Plan and Control Project for the African Clawed Frog
Action Plan for the control of the Pacific Oyster in mainland Portugal
National Action Plan for the control fo the Red Swamp Crayfish in mainland Portugal
Regional Legislative Decree no. 15/2012/A, of 2nd April (Açores)
Regional Legislative Decree no. 17/2023/M, of 11 April (Madeira)
Legislative Decree no. 92/2019, of 10 July

4.3. Has your country successfully controlled through management actions invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems? {4.3}
☑ G=More than #

››› 10

4.3 Additional Information
››› In adition to the National Plans for species that potential impact wetlands, the National Action Plan for the control fo the Red Swamp Crayfish in mainland Portugal, the Action Plan for the control of the Pacific Oyster in mainland Portugal, and the Action Plan and Control Project for the African Clawed Frog, there are several projects and actions being implemented in wetlands in general to control invasive species. Examples of these projects are: (1) PAMP_it_UP – PAMPas grass control in the University of Aveiro campus, in marginal areas of Ria de Aveiro.The main objective of the project is to control the pampas-grass, Cortaderia selloana in the interface between the University Campus and the Special Protection Area of the Ria de Aveiro; (2) 'Control and containment of the proliferation of invasive alien species in NUT III Cávado - Know and plan to act', a project which targets the species Eichhornia crassipes, Myriophyllum aquaticum and Reynoutria japonica; (3) SINVAQUA - Remote detection system of aquatic invasive exotic flora. The projet targets the species Egeria

densa and Eichhornia crassipes, in the rivers Lima and Cávado; (4) 'Prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species in the territory', a project financed by POSEUR, coordinated by the Intermunicipal Community of the Coimbra Region, for the implementation of prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species, in Natura 2000 Network areas, in nationally protected areas and in areas from which, in the absence of intervention, the direct propagation of invasive alien species to these areas is evidenced. The project's target species are Eichhornia crassipes, Myriophyllum aquaticum, Lagarosiphon major and three species of the genus Acacia sp.: Acacia longifolia, Acacia dealbata, and Acacia melanoxylon.

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

Prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species in the territory - implementation of prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species, in Natura 2000 Network areas, in nationally protected areas and in areas from which, in the absence of intervention, the direct propagation of invasive alien species to these areas is evidenced. The project's target species are Eichhornia crassipes, Myriophyllum aquaticum, Lagarosiphon major and three species of the genus Acacia sp.: Acacia longifolia, Acacia dealbata, and Acacia melanoxylon.

SINVAQUA - Remote detection system of aquatic invasive exotic flora - The projet targets the species Egeria densa and Eichhornia crassipes, in the rivers Lima and Cávado.

Control and containment of the proliferation of invasive alien species in NUT III Cávado - Know and plan to act: Reynoutria japonica

Control and containment of the proliferation of invasive alien species in NUT III Cávado - Know and plan to act: Myriophyllum aquaticum

Control and containment of the proliferation of invasive alien species in NUT III Cávado - Know and plan to act: Eichhornia crassipes

PAMP_it_UP – PAMPas grass control in the University of Aveiro campus, in marginal areas of Ria de Aveiro - The main objective of the project is to control the pampas-grass, Cortaderia selloana in the interface between the University Campus and the Special Protection Area of the Ria de Aveiro.

Action Plan and Control Project for the African Clawed Frog

Action Plan for the control of the Pacific Oyster in mainland Portugal

National Action Plan for the control fo the Red Swamp Crayfish in mainland Portugal

4.4 Has the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?{4.5}
☑ B=No

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

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.
[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 6, 11, 13, 14, 15]

Target 5

The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective planning and integrated management
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 3 and 5]

5.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? {5.1}
☑ B=No

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

››› 12

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

››› 12

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

››› 1

5.2 – 5.4 Additional information
››› 5.2. Ramsar Sites with a management plan: Ramsar sites that are, simultaneously, Protected Areas benefit from a co-management plan, namely Sapais de Castro Marim and Ria Formosa. Paul da Tornada, Paul de

Arzila, Lagoa da Albufeira, Fajãs of Caldeira and Cubres Lagoons and Praia da Vitoria Marsh have their own management plans. Caldeira do Faial, Complexo Vulcânico das Furnas, Complexo Vulcânico das Sete Cidades, Complexo Vulcânico do Fogo and Planalto Central do Pico have management plans in the scope of the Island Natural Park Management Plans of Faial Island, of São Miguel Island and of Pico Island.
5.3. Ramsar Sites actively implementing their management plans: Sapais de Castro Marim, Ria Formosa, Paul da Tornada, Paul de Arzila, Lagoa da Albufeira, Fajãs of Caldeira and Cubres Lagoons, Praia da Vitoria Marsh, Caldeira do Faial, Complexo Vulcânico das Furnas, Complexo Vulcânico das Sete Cidades, Complexo Vulcânico do Fogo and Planalto Central do Pico.
5.4. Ramsar Sites implementing management actions outside of formal management plans: Vascão River, in the scope of the Action Plan of the freshwater fish Anaecypris hispanica.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

plano_gestao_praia_vitoria.pdf - Management plan for the Praia da Vitória Coastal Wetland Green Infrastructure
PLANO_GESTÃO_-_Documento_-_FINAL_-_última_versão.pdf - Management plan for the Special Area of Conservation of Paul de Arzila
Plano_Gestao_Lagoa_Albufeira_final.pdf - Management plan for the Lagoa Pequena (Lagoa da Albufeira)
plano_gestao_RNL-PT_julho_010_compressed.pdf - Management plan for the Paul da Tornada Local Natural Reserve

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

Action Plan of the freshwater fish Anaecypris hispanica - Includes management actions implemented in the Ramsar Site of Vascao River.
Island Natural Park Management Plan of Pico Island - Includes the Ramsar Site of Planalto Central do Pico.
Island Natural Park Management Plan of São Miguel Island - Includes the Ramsar Sites of Complexo Vulcânico das Furnas, Complexo Vulcânico das Sete Cidades and Complexo Vulcânico do Fogo.
Island Natural Park Management Plan of Faial Island - Includes the Ramsar Site of Caldeira do Faial.
Management plan for the Fajãs of Caldeira and Cubres Lagoons
Co-management plan for the Ria Formosa Natural Park 2024-2027 - Ramsar Site of Ria Formosa
Co-management plan for the Sapal de Castro Marim e Vila Real de Santo António Nature Reserve 2023-2025 - Ramsar Site of Sapais de Castro de Marim

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

If “yes”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites
If “partially”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites
If “planned”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites
☑ B=No

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

››› 11

5.6 Additional information
››› Ramsar sites that are, simultaneously, Protected Areas benefit from a cross-sectoral management committee: Estuário do Tejo, Ria Formosa, Paul de Arzila, Paul do Boquilobo, Sapais de Castro Marim, Lagoa de St. André e Lagoa de Sancha, Paúl de Tornada, Bertiandos and S. Pedro of Arcos Lagoons, Estrela Mountain upper Plateau and upper Zêzere River, Mira Minde Polje and related Springs and Vascão River.

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

5.8 Resolution VI.13 urges Parties to give priority to providing the Secretariat with maps and completed Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) for all Sites designated for the Ramsar List, and to revise this data at least every six years. If your country has not updated its RIS as required, describe the challenges in updating RIS, particularly descriptions of ecological character.
››› Portugal has established as a priority for the coming triennium (2026-2028) to update and complete the Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) and its maps for all Sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance.

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
››› In mainland Portugal there is a SOS environment and territory permenant phone service (available 24 hours a day all year round) and an online plataform to report any environmental complains, violations and emergencies (including those that affect wetlands). There is also another online plataform, the iFAMA Portal, a single plataform for inspection and fiscalization for the areas of agriculture, sea and environment, where people can inform the respective autoritys of human-induced changes in the environment.
In Azores, there is a SOS environment permenant telephone service (available 24 hours a day all year round) and an online plataform to report environmental incidents.
In Madeira, there is an online portal where people can report any enviroment incidents.

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

Environmental Inspection - Madeira Archipelago
Na Minha Ilha - Açores Archipelago
iFAMA Portal - Mainland Portugal
SOS Ambiente e Território - Mainland Portugal

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

Section 3 - Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.
[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

Target 8

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

8.1 Does your country have a National Wetland Inventory (NWI)? {8.1}
☑ D=Planned

8.2 If your country has an NWI, has it been updated in the last decade [2014-2024]? {8.2}
☑ Y=Not Relevant

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?
☑ C=Not updated

8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information publicly available? {8.4}
☑ B=No

8.5 Please explain how the NWI data/information is maintained if at all? {8.3}
››› There is not an updated NWI.

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

8.7 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	☐ P=Status improved ☑ O=No change ☐ N=Status deteriorated
b) All wetlands in your country	☐ P=Status improved ☑ O=No change ☐ N=Status deteriorated

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

Please select only one per square.

a) Marine/coastal	☐ 5=major improvement ☐ 4=improvement ☑ 3=no change ☐ 2=deterioration ☐ 1=major deterioration
b) Inland	☐ 5=major improvement ☐ 4=improvement ☑ 3=no change ☐ 2=deterioration ☐ 1=major deterioration
c) Human-made	☐ 5=major improvement ☐ 4=improvement ☑ 3=no change ☐ 2=deterioration ☐ 1=major deterioration

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}

	Yes
a) Access to data and data acquisition standards	☐
b) Wetland delineation methods and approaches	☐
c) Habitat classifications	☐
d) Standardization in data interpretation methods	☐
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	☑
f) Resources	☑
g) Relevant skills	☑
h) Data collection and mapping	☑
i) Collaboration	☑
j) Others	☐

8.10 Please select from the list below the main needs of your country in using NWI results to implement COP mandates, e.g. conservation and wise use of all wetlands (Resolutions X.2, XIII.12, XIII.I3, XIII.14, XIII.16, XIV.17 and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)) to achieve sustainable development.

	Yes
a) Resources	☑

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

Target 9

The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone {1.3.}.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 9, 10 and 15].

9.1 Is a national wetland policy (or equivalent instrument) that promotes the wise use of wetlands in place? {9.1}
☑ B=No

9.1 Additional information
››› In Portugal there is no specific national policy or strategy for wetland management, nonetheless, various policy instruments are in place, such as the EU Water Framework Directive, the National Water Plan and the Hydrographic Region Management Plans, witch aim to protect inland surface water bodies, coastal water bodies, transitional water bodies and groundwater bodies. There is also a National Strategy for the Rehabilitation of Rivers and Streams.

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

Hydrographic Region Management Plans (Planos de Gestão das Regiões Hidrográficas)
National Strategy for the Rehabilitation of Rivers and Streams (Estratégia Nacional da Reabilitação de Rios e Ribeiras)
National Water Plan (Plano Nacional da Água)

9.2 Since COP14 have any amendments to existing legislation or policies been made to reflect commitments under the Convention on Wetlands? {9.2}
☑ B=No

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}
☑ B=No

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
››› The Hydrographic Region Management Plans incorporate several CEPA measures.

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

Hydrographic Region Management Plans (Planos de Gestão das Regiões Hidrográficas)

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

9.5 Additional information
››› In Portugal there is a National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change that establishes objectives and the model for implementing solutions for adapting different sectors to the effects of climate change, including

biodiversity and wetlands. The Action Programme for Adaptation to Climate Change complements and systematises the work carried out in the context of the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change, considering its second objective, that of implementing adaptation measures.
In Azores, there is a Regional Programme for Climate Change. This program establishes measures that contribute directly and indirectly to the role of wetlands in mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
In Madeira, there's the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Autonomous Region of Madeira, however this strategy doesn't directly adress the role of wetlands in mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

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

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Autonomous Region of Madeira

Regional Programme for Climate Change

Action Programme for Adaptation to Climate Change

National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change

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=No

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
››› The Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan for Portugal for the period of 2023-2017 includes measures for the protection and preservation of wetlands and peatlands.

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

Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan for Portugal

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

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

9.8 Additional information
››› a)
1. Mendes, C., Dias, E., Pereira, D. (2021) Description of a peatland complex in an agricultural landscape on Terceira Island (Azores): Criação do Filipe Case Study. Mires and Peat, 27, 29, 16pp. (Online: http://www.mires-and-peat.net/pages/volumes/map27/map2729.php); doi: 10.19189/MaP.2020.OMB.StA.2008
2. Mendes, C., Dias, E. and Rochefort, L. (2023). Assessing the potential of restoration measures and management techniques in a post-pastured Azorean peatland: two years tendencies. Restor Ecol e13917. hps://doi.org/10.1111/rec.13917
3. Nielsen C, Azevedo J, Nielsen J, Dias E, Mendes C (2023). Peat degradation by agricultural land-use jeopardises peatland ecology and climate benefits on Terceira Island. Conference RE3: Reclaim, Restore, Rewild. Quebéc City between 11-15 June.
4. Fernandes, R. ., Geraldes, M. ., Marchante, E. ., Durán, J. ., & Capinha, C. . (2024). Recent land use and land cover pressures on Iberian peatlands. Ecological Indicators, 158(111412). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2023.111412
b)
1. Pereira, D., Mendes, C. & Dias, E. The potential of peatlands in global climate change mitigation: a case study of Terceira and Flores Islands (Azores, Portugal) hydrologic services. SN Appl. Sci. 4, 184 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1007/s42452-022-05066-0
2. Nora Richter, James M. Russell, Linda Amaral-Zettler, Wylie DeGroff, Pedro M. Raposeiro, Vítor Gonçalves, Erik J. de Boer, Sergi Pla-Rabes, Armand Hernández, Mario Benavente, Catarina Ritter, Alberto Sáez, Roberto Bao, Ricardo M. Trigo, Ricardo Prego, Santiago Giralt, Long-term hydroclimate variability in the sub-tropical North Atlantic and anthropogenic impacts on lake ecosystems: A case study from Flores Island, the Azores,

Quaternary Science Reviews, Volume 285, 2022, 107525, ISSN 0277-3791, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2022.107525.
3. Pereira, H., Sousa, M. C., Vieira, L. R., Morgado, F., & Dias, J. M. (2022). Modelling Salt Intrusion and Estuarine Plumes under Climate Change Scenarios in Two Transitional Ecosystems from the NW Atlantic Coast. Journal of Marine Science and Engineering, 10(2), 262. https://doi.org/10.3390/jmse10020262
4. Pla-Rabes, S., Matias, M.G., Gonçalves, V. et al. Global warming triggers abrupt regime shifts in island lake ecosystems in the Azores Archipelago. Commun Earth Environ 5, 571 (2024). https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-024-01744-6
5. van der Laan, E., Nunes, J. P., Dias, L. F., Carvalho, S., dos Santos, F. M. (2023) Assessing the climate change adaptability of sustainable land management practices regarding water availability and quality: A case study in the Sorraia catchment, Portugal. Science of the Total Environment, 897, 165438. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.165438
6. Escobar, E., & Carvalho-Santos, C. (2022). Impacts of future climate on water ecosystem services in the watershed of the river Homem (northwest Portugal). Finisterra, 57(120), 125–148. https://doi.org/10.18055/Finis26254
7. Rodrigues, M., Rosa, A., Cravo, A., Jacob, J., & Fortunato, A. B. (2021). Effects of climate change and anthropogenic pressures in the water quality of a coastal lagoon (Ria Formosa, Portugal). Science of The Total Environment, 780, 146311.
8. Duarte B, Carreiras J, Caçador I. Climate Change Impacts on Salt Marsh Blue Carbon, Nitrogen and Phosphorous Stocks and Ecosystem Services. Applied Sciences. 2021; 11(4):1969. https://doi.org/10.3390/app11041969
9. ALGARVE BLUE CARBON - Blue carbon in the Algarve region for climate change mitigation and environmental protection. The ALGARVE BLUE CARBON project aims to investigate the current carbon sequestration and storage capacity of blue carbon ecosystems (seagrasses and salt marshes) in the four wetlands in the Algarve region: Ria de Alvor, Arade estuary, Ria Formosa, and Guadiana estuary.
10. RECAP - REduce atmospheric Carbon by Alkalinity enhancement in intertidal environments: Potential and impacts. The RECAP project intends to assess the potential benefits and risks associated with increasing alkalinity in intertidal environments, to remove carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere to combat global warming and associated environmental changes. This will be achieved by implementing an in-situ experiment, monitored continuously for 2 years, in the Ria Formosa Coastal Lagoon, in southern Portugal.
11. LIFE ADAPTA BLUES - Adaptation to climate change through management and restoration of European estuarine ecosystems. The LIFE ADAPTA BLUES project aims to demonstrate that the conservation and restoration of estuarine ecosystems is an efficient strategy to enhance adaptation to climate change in coastal areas of the European Atlantic coast.
c)
1. Erzini K, Parreira F, Sadat Z, Castro M, Bentes L, Coelho R, dos Santos Gonçalves JM, Lino P, Martínez-Crego B, Monteiro P, Ribeiro J, de los Santos CB, Santos R (2022) Nursery and fish provisioning ecosystem services delivered by the Ria Formosa lagoon (Portugal). Ecosystem Services. 58: 101490. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoser.2022.101490
2. Calapez, Ana & Serra, Sónia & Mortágua, Andreia & Almeida, Salomé & Feio, Maria. (2023). Unveiling relationships between ecosystem services and aquatic communities in urban streams. Ecological Indicators. 153. 10.1016/j.ecolind.2023.110433
3. Caro, C., Marques, J. C., Cunha, P. P., & Teixeira, Z. (2020). Ecosystem services as a resilience descriptor in habitat risk assessment using the InVEST model. Ecological Indicators, 115, 106426. https://hdl.handle.net/10316/96195
There has been developed an assessment of the ecosystem services provided by the Ramsar Site of Tornada Marsh. It was also developed an broader assessment of the ecosystem services in the region of Lisbon and Tejo Valley, which includes wetlands.

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

Ecosystem Services in the Region of Lisbon and Tejo Valley

Remuneration Model for Ecosystem Services for Paul da Tornada

LIFE ADAPTA BLUES - Adaptation to climate change through management and restoration of European estuarine ecosystems

RECAP - REduce atmospheric Carbon by Alkalinity enhancement in intertidal environments: Potential and impacts

ALGARVE BLUE CARBON - Blue carbon in the Algarve region for climate change mitigation and environmental protection

9.9 Has your country made efforts to conserve and wisely use urban and peri-urban wetlands in line with Resolutions XI.11 and XIV.10? {9.8}

☑ C=Partially

9.9 Additional information

››› For instance, the 'Lousada Charcos' initiative aims to conserve the municipality's ponds and other aquatic environments, and simultaneously to educate people about their ecological importance.

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

Lousada Charcos

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

9.10 Additional information
››› For instance, the project ‘Promoting the Conservation of Temporary Ponds in Baixo Alentejo’ aims to promote and implement conservation and management measures to improve the conservation status of temporary ponds in Baixo Alentejo.

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

Promoting the Conservation of Temporary Ponds in Baixo Alentejo

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?
☑ B=No

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?
☑ Y=Not relevant

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
››› There are many examples of projects that promote the participation of local communities in wetland management and conservation. For instance: (1) ROLLIN’ RIVERS - People, Knowledge and Action to Enhance River Restoration in Portugal. Implementation of public participation in river restoration actions, such as the removal of barriers to river connectivity, in the Alviela Basin. (2) Guarda-Rios Lourinhã: Monitoring, Action and Awareness Raising for the Rio Grande and Rio do Toxofal. (3) Lousada Guarda RIOS aims to involve local communities and work in partnership on a programme to inspect and monitor the ecological state of Lousada's rivers and streams. (4) 'Guardiãs do Mar'. This project aims to support women from the Sado river’s fishing community who work to protect seagrass meadows. (5) 'Water sentinels' was a community project that empowered people from coastal communities to play a role as citizen scientists for water quality. This project was rooted in a wider aim: the conservation and restoration of seagrass meadows in the Sado Estuary area (Portugal). The pilot engaged 5 citizens from the fishing community to detect pollution events (historical and current) that may have been failing to be detected with the current water monitoring networks. (5) REWET project in Paul da Gouxa (Alpiarça) where the creation of Friends of Nature of Alpiarça (Associação dos Amigos da Natureza de Alpiarça) was promoted and currently develop a series of environmental education and citizen science initiatives to promote nature conservation and restoration in Paul da Gouxa and Alpiarça wetlands.

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

Associação dos Amigos da Natureza de Alpiarça
Water sentinels
Guardiãs do Mar
Lousada Guarda RIOS
Guarda-Rios Lourinhã
ROLLIN’ RIVERS - People, Knowledge and Action to Enhance River Restoration in Portugal

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.
››› Diário da República n.º 122/2023, Série II de 2023-06-26, páginas 215 – 229 - Aviso n.º 12062/2023 – Final version of the regulation of the Municipal local nature reserve of Paul da Gouxa, that was surveyed by ICNF where the inegration of local communities was considered in the cnsitution of the consultive body where local communites are included.
Order No. 12734/2024, of October 25th - Determines the process of preparing the National Nature Restoration Plan, following Nature restoration law where NGOs are considered to take part in among other habitats wetland restoration plans will be defined taking into account participation of indigenous and local communities in wetland management at National level.

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
››› In some Ramsar sites traditional practices of salt production – very important for the maintenance of ecosystem services and biodiversity in the areas - has been documented and encouraged, as well as the cultivation of halophyte plants - an initiative that aims to restore former saltpans, which represent an important reservoir of plant biodiversity, containing ancestral agricultural species adapted to climate change. Additionally, all projects mentioned in point 12.3 have particpatory approaches.

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
››› There has been developed an assessment of the ecosystem services provided by the Ramsar Site of Tornada Marsh.
It was also developed an broader assessment of the ecosystem services in the region of Lisbon and Tejo Valley, which includes wetlands.

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

Ecosystem Services in the Region of Lisbon and Tejo Valley

Remuneration Model for Ecosystem Services for Paul da Tornada

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

11.3 Since COP14 have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to other benefits for human well-being been implemented?
☑ B=No

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
››› Particularly cultural and recreational benefits, such as activities for wildlife observation and hiking, the preservation of traditional practices like artisanal fishing and salt extraction, and the promotion of educational and scientific programmes related to biodiversity, among others, as well as economic benefits, supporting actions for the sustainable use of halophytic plants and other economically viable crops or the provision of storage infrastructure for fishermen.

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
››› In Ramsar sites, cultural values are included in the management planning, particularly through the creation of museums and dissemination projects, studies and events (e.g. Estuário do Sado - archaeology and traditional architecture; Sapais de Castro Marim and Mondego Estuary - traditional Salinas). Another example is the ethnographic exhibition about the Costa de Santo André in the Ramsar Site of Lagoa de Santo André e Lagoa da Sancha. In Estrela Mountain upper Plateau and upper Zêzere River, every year is celebrated the Festival of the Transhumance and the Shepherds. This event, which highlights the ancestral practice of transhumance, allows tourists, visitors and residents to accompany the shepherds and their flocks as they climb the Serra da Estrela mountain range.
In other wetlands, there is the example of the museum of the tidal mill of Corroios, located in Seixal.

Target 12
Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation. [Reference Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 2, 8 and 11]

12.1 Have national wetland restoration targets been established?
☑ D=Planned

12.1 Additional Information
››› Order No. 12734/2024, of October 25th - Determines the process of preparing the National Nature Restoration Plan, following Nature restoration law, where among other Wetlands will be considered.

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

Order No. 12734/2024, of October 25th - Determines the process of preparing the National Nature Restoration Plan

12.2 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {12.1}
☑ D=Planned

12.2 Additional information

If “yes”, please provide a list of sites, specifying wetland types
››› Order No. 12734/2024, of October 25th - Determines the process of preparing the National Nature Restoration Plan, following Nature restoration law, where, among others, wetlands will be considered and a prioritization process will be made.

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

Order No. 12734/2024, of October 25th - Determines the process of preparing the National Nature Restoration Plan

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

12.3 Additional information

Explain/clarify the data/statistics presented in the table above
››› In the past triennium, there was a large variety of restoration/rehabilitation projects implented in portuguese wetlands:
1. LIFE RESTORESEAGRASS - Large-scale conservation and restoration of critically threatened seagrass habitat on Atlantic infralittoral sand and coastal lagoons. The aim of the project is to conserve and restore priority seagrass habitats, implementing solutions to the loss of priority marine vegetation habitat (seagrasses): Non-Macaronesian seagrass beds on Atlantic infralittoral sand (A5.53), a ‘Critically Endangered’ habitat by the European Red List of Habitats, and Brackish or saline coastal lagoons, a priority habitat under Habitat Directive Annex II (1150);
2. LIFE Ilhas Barreira - Conserving the Barrier Islands in Algarve to protect priority species and habitats. This Project aims to assess the resilience of the barrier islands to climate change, the state of the Audouin’s Gull and the Little Tern (Chilreta) populations, and the impact that fishing has on the Pardela-Balear Gull;
3. LIFE FLUVIAL - Improvement and sustainable management of river corridors of the Iberian Atlantic Region. The overall objective is the improvement of the conservation status of Atlantic river corridors in the Natura 2000 network. For this purpose, the project develops a transnational strategy for the sustainable management of river corridor habitats in several Atlantic river basins of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal), through the restoration of the composition, structure and functionality of their types of habitats, the improvement of connectivity and the reduction of fragmentation;
4. Rivers2Restore – Rivers2Restore is a collection of 11 flagship river restoration projects across the EU that are bringing rivers degraded by human activity back to health by restoring nature. In Portugal, the restoration

of the Vascão River must involve the elimination of 17 obsolete river barriers along the river, so that river connectivity can be fully recovered;
5. RESTORE4Cs - Modelling restoration of wetlands for carbon pathways, climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystem services, and biodiversity co-benefits. This project will assess the role of restoration action on wetlands capacity in terms of climate change mitigation and a wide range of ecosystem services using an integrative socio-ecological systems approach;
6. SEAGHORSE – Seagrass and Seahorse Restaration. It aims to contribute to the reconstruction of a seagrass meadow and its repopulation by seahorses in a sanctuary in the Ria Formosa. The long-term goal of SeagHorse is the rehabilitation and sustainability of the seagrass habitats and seahorse populations of the Ria Formosa;
7. LIFE SeagrassRIAwild - Mariculture for Ria de Aveiro Subtidal Seagrass Rewilding. Aims at taking decisive steps to reverse the current conservation status of Zostera marina habitat in Ria de Aveiro and Portugal through the co-development of cost-efficient and policy relevant NbS (Nature-based Solutions);
8. BioPradaRia Project - Restoration, management and conservation of biodiversity and biological resources associated with Ria de Aveiro seagrass ecosystems. The BioPradaRia Project aims to contribute and promote the conservation and restoration of seagrass ecosystems and aquatic biodiversity, within the framework of sustainable fishing activities, particularly for a better management and conservation of marine biological resources, having Ria de Aveiro as a case study;
9. IBERALEX – Sustainable management of Iberian beaches and wetlands: conservation of the Chorlitejo patinegro as a tool to make human uses and biodiversity compatible. The main objective of this project is the conservation of the Kentish Plover (Charadrius alexandrinus) populations in the transboundary space, through an integrated management strategy for beaches and supratidal and inland wetlands that contributes to the compatibility of human activities and the conservation of their associated biodiversity;
10. Bio-Ilhas - Bio-Ilhas is a project that aims to recover degraded environments of salt marshes and salt flats in the Eastern Algarve, more precisely between Olhão and Faro, and promote the conservation of biodiversity through the implementation of artificial islands in salt flat tanks and WWTP lagoons;
11. MONI-TURFEIRAS - Location and conservation status of organic soils and peatlands and monitoring of carbon stock. This project aims to improve knowledge of the location and conservation status of organic soils and peatlands, as well as the carbon stock associated with them;
12. REWET - REstoration of WETlands to minimise emissions and maximise carbon uptake. The objective of the REWET project is to facilitate sustainable restoration and conservation of terrestrial wetlands, including freshwater wetlands, peatlands, and floodplains, by applying fit-for-purpose technologies to monitor greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, meteorological events, and social aspects of sustainability;
13. LIFE ALNUS TAEJO – Conservation and Restoration of Medrterranean Alder Forests Priority Habitat in Western International Tajo River Basin. The LIFE ALNUS TAEJO project aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore rivers and riverbanks dominated by residual alluvial forests (priority habitat type 91E0*), which host a high biodiversity and influence the water quality of rivers and their ecosystems;
14. Paul da Serra, Madeira - Conversion of the existing vegetation to a more suitable one, by removing invasive vegetation and introducing ecologically appropriate species to the area;
15. ReSEt Project - Restoration of estuarine marshes with the aim of sustainability. The project aims to promote coastal restoration based on an experimental study, with the Mondego estuary as a case study, which includes the preparation and scientific evaluation of innovative methodologies for the protection and restoration of estuarine marshes and the preservation of native biodiversity and stocks of species relevant to fishing activity, thus fostering the revitalisation of biodiversity and the services associated with these ecosystems.
16. LIFE ADAPTA BLUES - Adaptation to climate change through management and restoration of European estuarine ecosystems. The LIFE ADAPTA BLUES project aims to demonstrate that the conservation and restoration of estuarine ecosystems is an efficient strategy to enhance adaptation to climate change in coastal areas of the European Atlantic coast.
17. LIFE Natural Adapt 4 Rural Areas. The objective of this project is to implement innovative and demonstrative adaptation measures to climate change that contribute to sustainable water management in the Fradelos River Basin, making economic activities and the sustainability of water resources compatible, despite the impacts of climate change, taking into account strategies and obligations of beneficiaries but also of EU policies. Active peatland restoration measures are considered.

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

LIFE Natural Adapt 4 Rural Areas

LIFE ADAPTA BLUES - Adaptation to climate change through management and restoration of European estuarine ecosystems

ReSEt Project - Restoration of estuarine marshes with the aim of sustainability

Paul da Serra, Madeira

RemediGrass – Seagrass beds as green and blue infrastructures for ecosystem restoration

LIFE ALNUS TAEJO – Conservation and Restoration of Medrterranean Alder Forests Priority Habitat in Western International Tajo River Basin

REWET - REstoration of WETlands to minimise emissions and maximise carbon uptake

MONI-TURFEIRAS - Location and conservation status of organic soils and peatlands and monitoring of carbon stock

Bio-Ilhas

IBERALEX – Sustainable management of Iberian beaches and wetlands: conservation of the Chorlitejo patinegro as a tool to make human uses and biodiversity compatible

BioPradaRia Project - Restoration, management and conservation of biodiversity and biological resources associated with Ria de Aveiro seagrass ecosystems

LIFE SeagrassRIAwild - Mariculture for Ria de Aveiro Subtidal Seagrass Rewilding

SEAGHORSE – Seagrass and Seahorse Restaration. It aims to contribute to the reconstruction of a seagrass meadow and its repopulation by seahorses in a sanctuary in the Ria Formosa

RESTORE4Cs - Modelling restoration of wetlands for carbon pathways, climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystem services, and biodiversity co-benefits

LIFE FLUVIAL - Improvement and sustainable management of river corridors of the Iberian Atlantic Region

LIFE Ilhas Barreira - Conserving the Barrier Islands in Algarve to protect priority species and habitats

LIFE RESTORESEAGRASS - Large-scale conservation and restoration of critically threatened seagrass habitat on Atlantic infralittoral sand and coastal lagoons

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

☑ B=No

Target 13

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

j) Fisheries	☐ D=Planned ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes

13.1 Additional Information
››› c) The Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan for Portugal for the period of 2023-2017 includes measures ofor the protection and preservation of wetlands and peatlands.

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

Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan for Portugal

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 Legislative Decree no. 232/2007, of 15th June, which establishes the legal regime of the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, transposing into national law Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 and Directive 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003, requires Strategic Environmental Assessments for policies, programmes and plans that may impact sensitive areas, such as Protectes Areas, Special Areas of Conservation (Habitats Directive) and Special Protection Areas (Birds Directive), which include most of the sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance.

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

Legal regime of the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

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

13.3 Additional information
››› The Legislative Decree no. 151-B/2013, of 31st October, which establishes the legal framework for the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of public and private projects likely to have significant effects on the environment, transposing into national law Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, requires 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 sensitive areas, such as Protectes Areas, Special Areas of Conservation (Habitats Directive) and Special Protection Areas (Birds Directive), which include most of the sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance.

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

Legal framework for the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of public and private projects likely to have significant effects on the environment

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.
››› Portugal have been actively involved, since the very beginning, in the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet), participating in the MedWet Committee and other meetings of the initiative.

15.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {15.2}
☑ B=No

Target 16

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

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

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

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

16.1 Additional information

If “yes” or “in progress” to one or more of the four categories above
››› a) There is, currently, no action plan for wetland CEPA, however the National Strategy for Environmental Education addresses the issue of water, natural values and classified areas, such as Ramsar sites.
c) The Hydrographic Region Management Plans include several CEPA measures.
d) Although there are no local action plans for wetland CEPA, several municipalities have established local Environmental Education Plans and Programs, that contain actions and activities related to topic of wetland protection and conservation.

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

Hydrographic Region Management Plans
National Strategy for Environmental Education

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

››› 22

b) at other wetlands
☑ E=# centres

››› 14

16.2 Additional information
››› In the past triennum only one centre was inaugurated in a Ramsar Site: the Santo André and Sancha Lagoons Interpretive Centre (CILSAS). In total, there are currently 21 environmental interpretation centers operating at Ramsar sites, and 13 at other wetlands.
The following centres are part of an international network, the Wetland Link International: Lagoa Pequena Interpretive Space; RIAS/ALDEIA - Centro de Recuperação e Investigação de Animais Selvagens; National Centre for Environmental Education & Nature Conservation, Interpretation Centre of the Santo André and Sancha lagoons; EVOA – Espaço de Visitação e Observação de aves/ Tagus Estuary Birdwatching and Conservation Area.

a) EVOA – Espaço de Visitação e Observação de Aves (Estuário do Tejo); CEAM - Centro de Educação Ambiental de Marim (Ria Formosa); Centro Ciência Viva do Algarve (Ria Formosa); Centro Ciência Viva de Tavira (Ria Formosa); Centro de Interpretação da Reserva Natural do Paul de Arzila (Paul de Arzila); Centro de interpretação da Reserva Natural do Paul do Boquilobo (Paul do Boquilobo); Centro Interpretativo da Lagoa Pequena (Lagoa da Albufeira); Moinho de Maré da Mourisca (Estuário do Sado Estuary); National Centre for Environmental Education & Nature Conservation, Santo André and Sancha Lagoons Interpretive Centre and Centro Nacional de Educação Ambiental e Conservação da Natureza (Lagoa de Santo André e Lagoa da Sancha); Centro de Informação e Interpretação da Reserva Natural do Sapal de Castro Marim e Vila Real de Santo António (Sapais de Castro Marim); Centro Ecológico Educativo do Paul de Tornada – Professor João Evangelista (Paul da Tornada); Centro de Interpretação Ambiental da Paisagem Protegida das Lagoas de Bertiandos e S. Pedro de Arcos (Bertiandos and S. Pedro of Arcos Lagoons); CISE - Centro de Interpretação da Serra da Estrela (Estrela Mountain upper Plateau and upper Zêzere River); Centro Interpretativo do Vale Glaciar do Zêzere (Estrela Mountain upper Plateau and upper Zêzere River); Centro de Ciência Viva do Alviela-Carsoscópio (Mira Minde Polje and related Springs); Núcleo Museológico do Sal (Mondego Estuary); Centro de Interpretação da Fajã da Caldeira de Santo Cristo (Fajãs of Caldeira and Cubres Lagoons); Centro de Visitantes da Furna do Enxofre (Caldeira da Graciosa); Centro de Monitorização e Investigação das Furnas (Complexo Vulcânico das Furnas); Complexo Ambiental da Lagoa das Sete Cidades (Complexo Vulcânico das Sete Cidades); Centro de Interpretação de Aves Selvagens do Corvo (Caldeirão do Corvo).
b) Parque Metropolitano da Biodiversidade (Seixal); CILO - Centro de Interpretação para a Lagoa de Óbidos (Óbidos); Centro de Interpretação Ambiental da Pedra do Sal (Cascais); Sítio das Marinhas – Centro de Interpretação Ambiental (Moita); CIRES - Centro Interpretativo do Roaz do Estuário do Sado (Setúbal); Centro de Interpretação dos Charcos Temporários Mediterrânicos (Odemira); Centro de Interpretação Ambiental de Salreu (Estarreja); Centro de Educação Ambiental das Ribeiras de Gaia (Vila Nova de Gaia); Centro de Interpretação da Pateira de Frossos (Albergaria-a-Velha); Centro Municipal de Interpretação Ambiental (Aveiro); Centro Interpretativo da Reserva Natural das Dunas de São Jacinto (Aveiro); Atelier de Interpretação do Paul da Gouxa (Alpiarça); Centro de Monitorização e Interpretação Ambiental (Viana do Castelo); Centro de Interpretação Ambiental da Infraestrutura Verde Húmida Costeira da Praia da Vitória (Praia da Vitoria).

16.3 Does the Contracting Party {16.3}

Please select only one per square.

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

16.3 Additional information

››› In Portugal, all planning and spatial planning actions related to water resources involves the population in a formal way through public consultation processes (e.g. environmental impact assessment, planning of protected areas, protected areas co-management plans, hydrographic region management plans), not specifically for wetlands.
Additionally, there are cases, at the local level, that include local staekholders in their consultive bodies, e.g Reserva Natural do Paul da Tornada and Reserva Natural do Paul da Gouxa.

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

☑ B=No

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

☑ D=Planned

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	☑ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
b) other MEA national focal points	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
c) other ministries, departments and agencies	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes

16.7 Has your country organized any Convention on Wetlands-branded World Wetlands Day events, whether led by government or NGOs, since COP14? {16.7}
☑ A=Yes

16.7 Additional information
››› The WWD has been celebrated annually all over the country at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, through a diverse set of activities (e.g. workshops, guided tours and educational activities) and promoted by several entities (the administration, non-governmental organizations, universities, municipalities, among others). In 2022 we registered 22 events, in 2023 there were 31, and in 2024 there were a total of 61 events. All the events were registred in the website: https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/.

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
››› The WWD has been celebrated annually all over the country at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, through a diverse set of activities (e.g. workshops, guided tours and educational activities) and promoted by several entities (the administration, non-governmental organizations, universities, municipalities, among others).
An important initiative, also, is the translation of all the World Wetlands Days materials into Portuguese and then make it equally available to other Portuguese-speaking countries.

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 about the Convention and Portugal’s Ramsar Sites is available on the ICNF website.

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

Portugal’s Ramsar Sites (ICNF website)

Target 17
Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the Convention’s fourth Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

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

17.1 Additional information
››› A reserve fund was created to support Portuguese speaking developing countries (and other developing countries) to develop strategies and projects that promote among others the conservation, restoration and mapping of wetlands and biodiversity, so that these can be assisted in the development and implementation of practices for the implementation of legal international commitments and agreements.

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

Environnmental Funding for International Cooperation

17.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency (“donor countries”)] Have

environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed the development of projects by the agency? {17.4}
☑ X=Unknown

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

a) from development assistance agencies of another country?	☑ Z=Not applicable ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
b) from non-national or multilateral development assistance agencies?	☑ Z=Not applicable ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes

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

17.4 Additional information

If “yes” please state the amounts, and for which activities.
››› A reserve fund was created to support Portuguese speaking developing countries (and other developing countries) to develop strategies and projects that promote among others the conservation, restoration and mapping of wetlands and biodiversity, so that these can be assisted in the development and implementation of practices for the implementation of legal international commitments and agreements.

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

Environnmental Funding for International Cooperation

Target 18
International cooperation is strengthened at all levels

18.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the national Ramsar /wetland committee? {18.1}
☑ B=No

18.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Convention on Wetland’s Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {18.2}
☑ B=No

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

a) UNEP	☐
b) FAO	☐
c) UNECE	☐
d) UNFCCC	☐
e) Global Environment Facility	☐
f) UNDP	☐
g) UNESCO	☐
h) World Health Organization	☐
i) World Meteorological Organization	☐

j) ITTO	☐
k) The Convention's IOPs	☑

18.3 Additional information

For example describe the support and indicate the amount of funding.
››› Some organizatons in the country are partners of the mentioned IOPs: the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA) is the Portuguese partner of BirdLife International, the Group of Territory Planning and Environment Studies is the portuguese partner of Wetlands International and the Associação Natureza de Portugal (ANP|WWF) is associated with WWF.

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

Associação Natureza de Portugal (ANP|WWF)
Group of Territory Planning and Environment Studies (GEOTA)
Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA)

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

18.4 Additional information
››› Two of Portugal' Ramsar Sites, Ria Formosa and Lagoa de Santo André and Lagoa de Sancha, are members of the MedWet Managers Network, a share-and-learn network where managers can come together to advance their conservation and sustainable use agendas.
Portugal also has 4 centres associated with WLI – Wetland Link International, which is an international network of interpretation centres located in wetlands around the world, along the various migratory routes of birds, all situated in Ramsar sites.
There have also been implemented various international projects that promote knowledge sharing about wetlands that share common features:
1. Project CAPTA - Climate Neutrality: role of Blue Carbon on the coast of Portugal and Galicia. CAPTA aims to establish the basis for the development of joint policies and planning instruments to facilitate the achievement of climate neutrality and strengthen coastal ecosystem services, improving their resilience.
2. BLUEWWATER - Control, treatment and reduction of microplastics and emerging pollutants in urban wastewater and in the cross-border coastal environment. The BlueWWater project aims to protect and preserve river, transitional and coastal water bodies within the Cooperation Area by controlling and monitoring the emissions of microplastics and contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) in the aquatic environment.
3. SpongeBoost - Upscaling the natural sponge functions of freshwater ecosystems to deliver multi-benefit green deal solutions. The "SpongeBoost" project brings together a team of 10 partners from 7 European countries, spanning research, policy, and management fields. The aim is to identify effective ways to enhance or restore landscapes' natural water retention capacity. By consolidating existing knowledge, utilising best practices, and testing innovative approaches, the project will create a roadmap for implementing transformative measures to improve resilience to extreme events. These sites strategically cover most of the European latitude, stretching from Estonia, Germany, Belgium, and Spain to Portugal, represented by the Azores
4. GLOW – The Global Wetlands Project – A global index to improve coastal wetland health. The Global Wetlands Project goal is to build a new index of coastal wetland health (including seagrass meadows, mangrove forests and saltmarshes), which can be applied at the global scale, and use it to inform protection and restoration. GLOW focus on coastal wetlands and aims at deliver indicator tools that are effective under a very wide range of environmental, economic, social, political, cultural, and information conditions. The project includes six locations (Portugal – Ria de Aveiro, South Africa, India, China, Australia, Vanuatu) and will then expand to the rest of the world's coastal wetlands.
5. MERLIN - Mainstreaming Ecological Restoration of Freshwater Related Ecosystems in a Landscape Context. Optimising the efficiency of ecological restoration with a view to innovation and knowledge transfer between regions.
6. LIFE ADAPTA BLUES - Adaptation to climate change through management and restoration of European estuarine ecosystems. The LIFE ADAPTA BLUES project aims to demonstrate that the conservation and restoration of estuarine ecosystems is an efficient strategy to enhance adaptation to climate change in coastal areas of the European Atlantic coast.
7. REWET - REstoration of WETlands to minimise emissions and maximise carbon uptake – a strategy for long term climate mitigation. The projects aims to study the impact management options have on ecosystems services provided by wetlands.

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

REWET - REstoration of WETlands to minimise emissions and maximise carbon uptake – a strategy for long term

climate mitigation
LIFE ADAPTA BLUES - Adaptation to climate change through management and restoration of European estuarine ecosystems
MERLIN - Mainstreaming Ecological Restoration of Freshwater Related Ecosystems in a Landscape Context
GLOW – The Global Wetlands Project – A global index to improve coastal wetland health
SpongeBoost - Upscaling the natural sponge functions of freshwater ecosystems to deliver multi-benefit green deal solutions
BLUEWWATER - Control, treatment and reduction of microplastics and emerging pollutants in urban wastewater and in the cross-border coastal environment
Project CAPTA - Climate Neutrality: role of Blue Carbon on the coast of Portugal and Galicia

18.5 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {18.6}
☑ A=Yes

18.5 Additional information
››› All transboundary wetland systems are well known and include both riverine and estuarine systems on the border with Spain. Most of these systems are designated as Natura 2000 according to the Birds and Habitats Directives of the European Union, although just one of them (Sapais de Castro Marim) is designated as a Ramsar site.
The Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60 / EC) stipulates that, in the case of international river basin districts located entirely on EU territory, such as those shared between Portugal and Spain, Member States must ensure coordination of the Hydrologic Region Management Plans developed by each party at national level to achieve the objectives of the Directive.

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
››› The Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Waters of the Luso-Spanish Hydrographic Basins, known as the Albufeira Convention, is the legal instrument that articulates the cooperation mechanisms between Portugal and Spain to promote and protect the good status of water bodies, guarantee the sustainable use of water resources and mitigate the effects of droughts and floods.
Spain and Portugal have developed different transboundary technical-scientific cooperation projects, promoted by the Albufeira Convention, aimed at promoting the joint and coordinated implementation of actions between Spain and Portugal and at covering the different themes of shared water resources management:
1. ALBUFEIRA – Program of joint evaluation of the water masses of the Spanish-Portuguese river basins. The Albufeira project aims to improve the coordination of actions to promote and protect the good status of these bodies of water shared between Spain and Portugal, for their protection and sustainable use and their associated ecosystems. To this end, it provides for the harmonisation of methodologies for monitoring ecological status or ecological potential and the definition of the measures needed to achieve the environmental objectives set for the bodies of water in the Miño, Douro, Tagus and Guadiana river basins.
2. RISC_PLUS - Prevention, Preparedness and Digitisation - Resilience to the Risks of Floods and Droughts derived from the impact of Climate Change in the International Basins of the Miño and Limia Rivers. It aims to move towards a single hydrological plan to strengthen resilience to climate change, in line with the Water Framework Directive.
3. AQUA&AMBI 2 – Support for the management of coastal wetlands in south-west Iberia: interactions between aquaculture and the environment in the Alentejo-Algarve-Andalusia cross-border region. Consolidate cross-border mechanisms for the maintenance and recovery of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Alentejo-Algarve-Andalusia Natura 2000 Network; the promotion and use of methodologies and ecological production systems appropriate to protected wetlands.
4. NOR-WATER - Emerging pollutants in the waters of Galicia-Northern Portugal: new tools for risk management. This project is aimed at identifying the main emerging pollutants (EPs) and their sources in the hydrographic basins of northern Portugal and Galicia. In addition, it is focused on developing, implementing and harmonizing a set of innovative multidisciplinary tools to minimize the impact of EPs on these water bodies. The project will also contribute to the improvement of water quality and will enhance the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in this cross-border area.
5. VALAGUA - Environmental valorisation and integrated management of water and habitats in the Lower Guadiana. The aim of the project was to develop an integrated action that aims to intervene in different sectors to promote water quality and the protection and valorisation of the riparian ecosystems in the area of intervention. It covers the Lower Guadiana, understood as the downstream (lower) section of the Guadiana river basin, and encompasses the sub-basins of the Chança River and the Guadiana River south of the Ribeira de Cobres.

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

VALAGUA - Environmental valorisation and integrated management of water and habitats in the Lower Guadiana Transfrontier

AQUA&AMBI 2 – Support for the management of coastal wetlands in south-west Iberia: interactions between aquaculture and the environment in the Alentejo-Algarve-Andalusia cross-border region

RISC_PLUS - Prevention, Preparedness and Digitisation - Resilience to the Risks of Floods and Droughts derived from the impact of Climate Change in the International Basins of the Miño and Limia Rivers

NOR-WATER Emerging pollutants in the waters of Galicia-Northern Portugal: new tools for risk management

ALBUFEIRA – Program of joint evaluation of the water masses of the Spanish-Portuguese river basins

Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Waters of the Luso-Spanish Hydrographic Basins (Albufeira Convention)

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
››› Many wetlands are part of the Natura 2000 network for their value for the conservation of migratory species. Also, the monitoring data of those sites (collected namely by ICNF/CEMPA and SPEA) is included in regional and international schemes, e.g. African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and International Waterfowl Counts (IWC).

Target 19

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

19.1 Has your country conducted any national needs assessment since COP14 to inform capacity building planning to implement the Convention’s Strategic Plan? {19.1}
☑ B=No

19.2 Does your country or institution implement capacity development strategies or actions for the Convention’s Strategic Plan?
☑ B=No

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 national school curriculum addresses the issue of wetlands in some disciplines and grades, but does not in a systematic and planned way.
There is a Common Frame of Reference for Education in Sustainability, promoted by the Ministry of Education, that addresses several themes related to wetland and conservation such as: landscape and territory, climate change, water, biodiversity conservation. These themes cover all the school grades, from Pre-school to the High School.
Also the National Curriculum for Citizenship and Development addresses areas such as Environmental Education and Sustainable Development, for all grades.
There also some projects that promote the inclusion of wetland conservation and wise-use issues in education programmes, such as the 'Criar ao Ar Livre' project. This is a multidisciplinary pilot project aimed at students and teachers in the 8th year of the 3rd cycle of primary education at schools in the municipalities covered by the Sado Estuary Nature Reserve: Setúbal, Palmela, Grândola, and Alcácer do Sal. It is an artistic and environmental education project that aims to create a place for each participant in the middle of nature, in harmony with the fauna and flora of the Troia peninsula. The pilot project in 2023 covered 13 schools and around 325 students.

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

Criar ao Ar Livre

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

b) at other wetlands

☑ X=Unknown

19.5 Have you (AA) used your previous National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {19.4}
☑ B=No