



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>

>>> Serbia

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[NR letter Serbia.pdf](#)

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

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Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

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Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

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

Name and title

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Name of organisation

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

Name and title

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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)

>>> Designation of first transboundary Ramsar site Iron Gates Natural Park – Djerdap between Romania and the Republic of Serbia.

With the aim to further implement provisions of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Letter of Designation of Transboundary Ramsar site Iron Gates Natural Park – Djerdap was signed on October 12th during Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (CC COP7) that was held in Belgrade, Serbia, 11-13 October 2023.

This designation, in line with Article 5 of the Ramsar Convention on governing the wetlands extending over the territories of more than one Contracting Party, will further support the implementation of several multilateral environmental agreements and will allow improved management and conservation status of wildlife and their habitats with the aim of safeguarding biological diversity.

2)

>>> Programme for Nature Protection of the Republic of Serbia for the period until 2032, strategic document in the nature protection sector, is being drafted in line with new global Kunming Montreal framework for biodiversity including targets and goals of all biodiversity related MEAs including Ramsar convention

3)

>>> The extensive alluvial plain of the Tamish River was declared as a protected area "Potamišje" of international, national importance, covering the area of 22.633,18ha and is classified in the I category of protection, as an Landscape of Outstanding Features according to the national legislation. The area is protected

in order to preserve the extensive alluvial plain of the Tamish River, with a unique and interconnected mosaic of water, wet and dry habitats, hydrological phenomena and individual water bodies of wet meadows and pastures, alluvial forests, old parts of the river course, cut off meanders, ponds, mesophilic meadows, saline meadows and forest-steppe; preservation of plants, invertebrates of national and international importance, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals; to protect and preserve the traditionally shaped landscape, as a result of the tradition of extensive grazing, the presence of a still significantly large number of cattle that are raised in the settlements on the edge of the protected area and the exceptional dynamics of movement of herds of mixed composition; to preserve carp ponds that form an integral part of the ecological whole of Potamišje and represent irreplaceable important areas for reproduction and migration of strictly protected species of birds, especially colonial species of waterfowl.

In 2023, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Decree on the proclamation of a Special Nature Reserve "Uvac", of which central morphological unit is the canyon valley of the Uvac river with its tributaries. The area of the protected area amounted to 11,750 hectares, which is about 4 thousand hectares more than before, and new protection regimes of I, II and III degrees were established.

Protected area "Mali Bosut" on 282,34ha, was proclaimed and is located in the Republic of Serbia, AP Vojvodina, in the western part of Srem region, it includes the Bosut watercourse, in the immediate vicinity of the state border with the Republic of Croatia. It is placed under protection and declared a protected area Nature Park "Mali Bosut", as a natural asset of international, national, i.e. exceptional importance, is classified in the I category of protection. "Mali Bosut" Nature Park is placed under protection in order to preserve the original flow of the Bosut river as a whole, which along with its coastal belt, represents an ecological corridor of international importance according to the Regulation on the ecological network, including proposed Natura 2000 areas. The water, wetland, coastal and forest habitats are habitats for 26 species of mammals, 27 species of invertebrates, 11 species of amphibians, nine species of reptiles, 118 species of birds, 62 species of plants and 16 species of fish.

In 2023, the Provincial Government of Vojvodina Province adopted the Provincial Decree on the proclamation of a Nature Park "Slatine u dolini Zlatice", a protected area of regional importance, saline-steppe-wetland mosaic on 3640ha and Nature Park "Mrtvaje Gornjeg Potisja" on 304ha which includes wetland habitats.

In urban area of capital city of Belgrade, protected area "Ada Ciganlija" was proclaimed as Landscape of Outstanding Features in 2023, III category of protection of local importance, of total surface 471,48 ha area. Landscape of Outstanding Features "Klisura Djetinje", was declared also as protected area of III category of local importance by city of Uzice, surface area 281,83ha, gorge in the upper part of Djetinja river, in Western Serbia.

4)

>>> World's first pentilateral biosphere reserve connecting almost 1.000.000 hectares across Austria, Slovenia,

Croatia, Hungary and Serbia called the "Amazon of Europe" was declared by UNESCO on 15th September 2021. The aim is to jointly conserve the river and floodplains maintaining and ensuring greater benefits for local people. The reserve includes Ramsar site from Serbia Gornje Podunavlje.

5)

>>> Through the implementation of the project "EU for the Green Agenda in Serbia", with the technical and financial support of the European Union and in partnership with the Ministry of Environmental Protection, is implemented by UNDP in cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden and the European Investment Bank (EIB), with additional funding from the Governments of Sweden, Switzerland and Serbia, two projects dealing with wetland conservation were supported as a part of the Challenge Call for Innovative Solutions under Pillar 4 – Biodiversity and Ecosystems in two Ramsar sites.

One of the projects is being implemented in Ramsar site Special Nature Reserve - Zasavica with the following activities: establishment of new two solar-powered pumps for bringing groundwater to the surface for revitalizing wet meadows, formation of ponds-depressions around a total of three pumps, followed by biodiversity monitoring and further security of hydrological conditions for the needs of priority species and habitats. The project is expected to achieve an increase in the number of species populations in the local wetland ecosystems, as well as an increase in the grazing capacity of herbivorous animals in the surrounding pasture.

The second project is being implemented in Ramsar site Special Nature Reserve - Obedska bara with the aim to revitalize 25 ha of wet meadows, ponds, and forest edges with water buffaloes, remove invasive species from that area, open the water bodies, increase the number of birds in the area by about 10%, as well as to strengthen and raise awareness of the local community and herders about the importance of preserving wetland habitats.

Furthermore, as a part of a special project within the greater initiative of "EU for Green Agenda in Serbia", a Call for Innovative Solutions was published in June of 2024 as a part of the project "Protection and investment in biodiversity and water in order to strengthen resistance to climate change", with the financial support of the Government of Sweden. At the time of writing of this report, 27 project applications are under review for financial and technical support for the implementation of innovative solutions that directly contribute to the protection and preservation of wetland habitats in protected areas or in their immediate vicinity. The best project proposals shall receive co-financing of 70% of the total project value (with the maximum amount of 150,000 USD per project). Their implementation is expected in the beginning of 2025.

Within the same project, the selection of wetland habitats with high potential for climate adaptation through the application of nature based solutions (NbS) was done, with the aim of identifying those that are important for support through targeted projects for the application of active protection measures. The aim of the activity is to prioritize these habitats in relation to their conservation importance and to provide support for the effective implementation of Nature based Solutions, including analysis of available data, collection of field information, as well as with consultations with interested parties.

Restore4Life project (Restoration of wetland complexes as life supporting systems in the Danube Basin) showcases the remarkable socio-economic benefits derived from a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to restoring freshwater and coastal wetlands in the Danube basin. By creating new blue-green infrastructure that bolsters regional climate change resilience and mitigation efforts, Restore4Life paves the way for a sustainable future. Ramsar site Vlasina is the implementation site from Serbia for eradication of invasive and tree species from bogs, restoration of riparian areas. Ramsar site Gornje Podunavlje is monitoring site within this project for demonstration of the substantial enhancement of crucial ecosystem services.

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

1)

>>> Harmonizing wise use principles with demands of other sectors (agriculture, forestry, hunting, water management, spatial planning, economy and infrastructure, tourism, energy and mining)

2)

>>> At the site level - water regime regulation (Slano kopovo, Stari Begej - Carska bara, Vlasina), eutrophication (Ludaš lake, Obedska bara, Stari Begej - Carska bara, Vlasina), habitat fragmentation - Zasavica, expansion of invasive species (Obedska bara, Gornje podunavlje, Koviljski rit), urbanization (Ludaš lake, Vlasina, Labudovo okno), land tenure issues (Zasavica), forestry (Obedska bara, Gornje podunavlje, Koviljski rit), agriculture Slano kopovo, hunting & poaching (Labudovo okno), peat extraction (Peštersko polje).

3)

>>> Lack of Ramsar National Committee. Lack of resources and capacities for further inventarisation of the Ramsar sites and wetlands. Insufficient management, including monitoring capacities.

4)

>>> Lack of funds, experts and administrative prerequisites for wetland restauration

5)

>>> Water shortages due to climate and hydrological extremes.

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

1)

>>> Improvement of wise use of Ramsar sites, their management and of wetlands in general

2)

>>> Establishing and/or enlarging protected areas, ecological network including identification of potential Natura 2000 in wetland areas.

3)

>>> Designation of new Ramsar sites including potential transboundary ones

4)

>>> Improvement of the synergies in implementation of all biodiversity related conventions as well as improvement of the synergies in implementation of EU legislation especially between WFD and Habitats Directive.

5)

>>> Capacity Building, both institutional and human. Establishing monitoring system for Ramsar sites.

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

>>> Support for capacity building activities for managers, on the spot training for management of Ramsar sites

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)?

>>> Improvement of implementation of nature based solutions in disaster risk management - the role of ecosystem services in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

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

>>> There is a balance between genders participating in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research since genders are equally included in decision making, research, management etc. (Ministry, institutes for nature conservation and management authorities).

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

>>> Available report https://rsjp.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/Serbia-and-2030-Agenda_November-2021.pdf

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

>>> Genders are equally included in decision making, research, management etc. (Ministry, institutes for nature conservation and management authorities).

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

>>> The Serbian government has adopted the Gender Equality Law, the National Gender Strategy and a new action plan to combat sexual and gender-based violence.

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).

>>> Inclusion of students, master and PhD in research activities, inclusion of local communities with special emphasis on youth in conservation efforts

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

>>> Ministry of Environmental Protection, Republic Water Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Agency for Environmental Protection, Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, Provincial Institute for Nature Conservation

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

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

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

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

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

Target 1

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14]

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

1.1 Additional information

>>> Answer n) relates for freshwater capture fisheries only.

MEASURE 4.2 of the Strategy of sustainable urban development of the Republic of Serbia until 2030: Adapting to climate change and establishing response systems in risky and emergency situations in urban settlements

includes preservation of biodiversity of urban areas (green areas, green infrastructure, protected areas, landscapes, water bodies).

Wetlands benefits are recognized in national strategic and planning documents : In Water Management Strategy for the Territory of the Republic of Serbia until 2034. ("Off. Gazette RS", no. 3/2017) Operational objective 7: Improvement of water retention in the basin, where one of the measures is maintaining and, if possible and economically justified, restoring or expanding natural retention areas (swamps and floodplains). In April 2023, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the first Water Management Plan (RBMP) for the planning cycle until 2027. RBMP is harmonized with requirements of WFD 2000/60/EC and includes a list of environmental objectives relating to surface waters, groundwaters and protected areas/ecological network/Ramsar sites. Currently, WFD is partially transposed to national legislation for water management, but the preparation of new Law on Water is on-going, and it will fully transpose (or give legal basis for further transposition through subsidiary legislation) requirements of EU water acquis. In RBMP, among other things, guidelines were given for the development of a multi-year monitoring program for surface and underground water, based on which a Multiannual monitoring program is drafted, and it also includes a special chapter on protected areas monitoring.

Wastewater management policies in RS are more stringent when it comes to discharging into protected areas, requiring higher level of wastewater treatment.

Target 2

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

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

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

☒ C=Partially

2.1 Additional Information

>>> Within management plans of some protected areas and Ramsar sites (for example Obedska bara, Slano kopovo) activities are conducted to assess and use water for better wetland status.

Preliminary meeting of stakeholders was held to discuss and identify measures to improve the resilience of "Peštersko polje" to the impacts of climate change and to explore the potential of this ecosystem as a pilot habitat for the application of nature-based solutions to protect wetlands in Serbia more effectively (currently application is being prepared).

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

☒ C=Partially

2.2 Additional Information

>>> Pilot study on ecosystem services was done for wetland Bosut forests, where the assessment of relation between floods and ecological character has been done. Upon that, project is in progress for further ecological flood management (FORRET project <https://interreg-croatia-serbia.eu/2014/project/forret/>)

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

☒ C=Partially

2.3 Additional Information

>>> No assessment was done, but it is expected that designation and management of Ramsar sites would contribute to sustainable use of water. In some cases designation of Ramsar site triggered the designation or enlargement of protected area and through that process improved the sustainable use of water

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

>>> Guidelines are being used within the process of defining bans and conditions through issuing of nature protection licenses

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

>>> Restore4life project with four demonstration sites and six monitoring sites spread throughout the Danube basin, aims to demonstrate the substantial enhancement of crucial ecosystem services. These services include water and pollutant retention, carbon sequestration, tourism opportunities, and the overall resilience of water-dependent habitats. The project further reveals the multitude of socio-economic synergies that arise from these improvements, opening doors for sustainable businesses and investments.

The project's core activities center around reinstating lateral connectivity in riverine corridors, crucial for restoring the ecological balance. To support this mission, Restore4Life introduces the long-term wetland restoration service called Restore4Life Wetland Reconstruction Accelerator.

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

☒ B=No

Target 3

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

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

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

☒ C=Partially

3.1 Additional Information

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

>>> Within the documents issued by nature conservation sector, wise use of wetlands is encouraged and advised to be implemented by private sector on Ramsar sites through grazing (Slano kopovo, Obedska bara, Koviljski rit, Labudovo okno, Zasavica, Pestersko polje), reed harvesting (Stari Begej - Carska bara, Ludaš lake), fishery (Gornje podunavlje, Koviljsko petrovaradinski rit, Labudovo okno)

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

Please select only one per square.

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

3.2 Additional information

>>> Wise use of wetlands is undertaken by private sector on Ramsar sites through grazing (Slano kopovo, Obedska bara, Koviljski rit, Labudovo okno, Zasavica, Pestersko polje), reed harvesting (Stari Begej - Carska bara, Ludaš lake), fishery (Gornje podunavlje, Koviljsko petrovaradinski rit, Labudovo okno)

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

☒ B=No

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}

☒ C=Partially

4.1 Additional information

>>> Preliminary list of IAS in the Republic of Serbia exists within the scientific paper including general measures for their control and eradication. Updated list is still not incorporated in national legislation, which will be done with the new Law on nature protection and relevant bylaws in the next period.

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

>>> Guidelines for fish and plant species removal have been done for several Ramsar sites (Ludasko Lake, Obedska bara, Gornje Podunavlje, Stari Begej Carska bara) and other protected wetlands. Sava TIES is a regionally significant project that was implemented in all four countries of the Sava River basin: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. The project was part of the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme (INTERREG DTP) and funded by European Union fund (ERDF, IPA). The project started on 1st June 2018, the Sava River Day and has a duration of three years. Besides strengthening the SavaParks network it focused on invasive alien species in the Sava River Basin. The main goals of the project were to: find an effective solution for permanent eradication of IAS, reduce habitat fragmentation, improve the connectivity of the transnational ecological corridor.
<https://savaparks.eu/sava-ties-7448>
<https://pzzp.rs/sava-ties.html>

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

☒ F=Fewer than #

>>> 10

4.3 Additional Information

>>> Management actions are being performed by the managers of protected areas and Ramsar sites for some IAS. Freshwater fish allochthonous invasive species are targeted for eradication (*Arystichthys nobilis*, *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*, *Ctenopharyngodon idella*, *Ameiurus melas*, *Ameiurus nebulosus* and *Carassius gibelio*). Specimens of these species are harmlessly removed if they are not suitable for human consumption when they are placed on the market. Removal of *Amorpha fruticosa* on Obedska bara Ramsar site. The invasive plant species *Heracleum sosnowskyi* was found for the first time in Serbia in Belgrade area on the left bank of the Danube, near Kovilovo and was being removed yearly since 2019.

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

☒ C=Partially

4.4 Additional Information

>>> Done for Obedska bara

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}

☒ C=Partially

5.1 Additional information

>>> Designation of new Ramsar sites is recognized as one of the goals in all strategic documents in the area of nature protection, spatial planning etc. The list of potential wetlands of international importance was made by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia.

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 11

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 11

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 5

5.2 – 5.4 Additional information

>>> Management plans of Ramsar sites are incorporated into management plans of protected areas. The management plans of protected areas are implemented through the annual management programmes, which are subject to consent by the Ministry, Provincial Secretariat for Urbanism and Environmental Protection and/or the local self-government units, depending on the level of proclamation of protected area. Managers of the PAs/Ramsar sites deliver the report on the progress of the annual programme for the previous year. All Ramsar sites have their management plans implemented. Some of the Ramsar sites are implementing management actions outside of formal management plans through project activities.

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

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

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

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

☒ C=Partially

>>> 6

5.5 Additional information

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

>>> Protected areas management effectiveness has been assessed through application of RAPPAM methodology (Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management) in February 2009 for Ludasko jezero, Obedska bara, Koviljsko Petrovaradinski rit, Gornje Podunavlje and Slano Kopovo. The project has been implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia and WWF in 2009 (Protected area management effectiveness in Serbia, Final report of the RAPPAM analysis).

Within the UNDP/GEF project “Ensuring financial sustainability of the protected area system of Serbia”, evaluation of effectiveness of protected areas management in accordance with the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) has been performed. The evaluation of management effectiveness was performed in 19 protected areas among which for one Ramsar site - Ludasko Lake, for 2009 as a baseline year following with ones in 2012 and 2015.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Belgrade Open School (BOS) launched the five-year, \$5 million "Together for the Environment" project to improve environmental protection and biodiversity in Serbia. The project will increase and strengthen the capacity of managers of protected areas, improve sustainable financing mechanisms for these areas, and engage the business sector and citizens in environmental efforts and biodiversity protection. This project will also include adjustment of METT for implementation in protected areas/Ramsar sites

<https://www.usaid.gov/serbia/press-releases/usaid-and-belgrade-open-school-partner-improve-environmental-and-biodiversity-protection-serbia>

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 0

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 0

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.

>>> For eight Ramsar Sites in Serbia that were missing published boundaries in GIS format in the RSIS, the data were prepared and uploaded to the RSIS in October 2024., pending approval of the AA (in progress).

Project for establishment of the ecological network in Serbia, financed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, implemented during period 2015-2024, will provide updated data on habitat and species of national and international importance that will provide quality data also for RIS update.

Institutional framework has been completely set but there is the lack of capacities for certain issues among them is RIS update.

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

>>> The mechanism is in place by the chain of institutions involved: Administrative Authority as the focal point, managers of Ramsar sites, environmental inspection for surveillance and control, both institutes for nature conservation, NGO and also through EIA and SEA procedures.

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}

☒ A=Yes

7.2 Additional information

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

>>> All have been reported

Section 3 - Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

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

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

Target 8

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

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

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

☒ C=In Progress

8.1 Additional information

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

>>> “Inventory of wetlands and other wet habitats in Serbia”, was the project financed by the ministry responsible for environmental protection in 2006 and implemented by the Faculty of Biology of Belgrade

University. The outcome of this project was inventory of all wet habitats in Serbia, including those habitats that could be designated as Ramsar sites, as well as important habitats on local, regional and national level. Pursuant to the Law on Nature Protection, the ecological network of the Republic of Serbia is established as a functionally and spatially connected entity in order to conserve habitat types of particular importance for protection and conservation of wild species of flora and fauna and their habitats. It comprises of ecological important areas of national and international importance and ecological corridors (certain water courses and coastal zones) and includes among others, Ramsar sites, already proclaimed and potential ones. Data gathered from the national project "Establishing the ecological network in the Republic of Serbia" in the period 2015-2024, financed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) from the republic budget, coordinated by Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia in collaboration with Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province and scientific institutions, will result in the input of large amount of digitalized data on habitat types and species and their habitats in the Information System of the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia. Collection and evaluation of existing data, research and establishment of GIS will be continued during the named period and therefore project contributes to update the inventory of wetlands in the country (according also to Ramsar definition).

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

☒ C=In Progress

8.2 Additional information

>>> Data gathered from the national project "Establishing the ecological network in the Republic of Serbia" , financed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) from the republic budget, coordinated by Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia in collaboration with Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province and scientific institutions, will result in the input of large amount of digitalized data on habitat types and species and their habitats in the Information System of the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia. Collection and evaluation of existing data, research and establishment of GIS contributes to update the inventory of wetlands in the country

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ A=Regular intervals ≤ 6 years

8.3 Additional information

>>> Database of protected areas, species and habitat types is being continuously updated by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia and Provincial Institute for Nature Conservation.

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}

>>> Database of protected areas, species and habitat types is being continuously updated by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia and Provincial Institute for Nature Conservation.

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

☒ E=# km²

>>> 1,356 Km²

CORINE LAND COVER 2018

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

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

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

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

>>> Area by type of wetland -Total area by category of wetland:

Marine/Coastal- Not applicable

Inland-1,356 km²

of which 317 km² of Inland marshes,

788 km² of watercourses and

251 km² of water bodies

Human-made - Unknown

Total 1,356 Km²

Date of the inventory: CORINE LAND COVER 2018

Reference or link: www.sepa.gov.rs

<https://bioindicators.sepa.gov.rs/indicator-name-corine-land-cover-habitat-changes-inside-ecological-network-in-serbia/>

8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km ²)
L -- Permanent inland deltas	
M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls	
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks	
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes	
P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes	
Q -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes	
R -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats	
Sp -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	
Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	
Tp -- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools	
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils	
U -- Non-forested peatlands	
Va -- Alpine wetlands	
Vt -- Tundra wetlands	
W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands	
Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	
Xp -- Forested peatlands	
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.	
Zg -- Geothermal wetlands	
Zk(b) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

>>> 1356

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

8.7 Additional Information

>>> In Ramsar sites number of revitalization activities have been conducted and their status improved. For some other wetlands infrastructural activities and pollution overall led to some degree of deterioration.

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

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

i) Collaboration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Others	<input type="checkbox"/>

8.9 Additional Information

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

>>> Habitat mapping is being continuously conducted on specific locations (such as for Pestorsko polje and Vlasina Ramsar sites) and habitat classification is done on a national level. There are needs in terms of building up the IS infrastructure, data input, availability and management, etc.

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

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

Target 9

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

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

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

☒ A=Yes

9.1 Additional information

>>> Program for Nature Protection 2021-2023 promotes the wise use of wetlands. Currently, the new Program for Nature Protection for the next period is being drafted

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}

☒ A=Yes

9.3 Additional information

>>> Republic of Serbia adopted on April 6, 2023 the first River Basin Management Plan in line with the EU Water Framework Directive and other relevant water related directives.

During the preparation of RBMP, wetlands were analyzed as an important part of ecosystem, in line with Ramsar Convention and national designated protected areas.

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

>>> CEPA principles are incorporated into planning and management of water resources. During the planning period, working groups are forming composing of all relevant stakeholders. Also, National Water Conference, is involved in all planning and implementation activities.

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

>>> 3rd National communication to the UNFCCC.

Climate change adaptation programme for the period 2023-2030 was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia in 20203.

9.6 Has your country included wetland actions in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other related national policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation?

☒ C=Partially

9.6 Additional Information

>>> Climate change adaptation Programme for the period 2023-2030 includes actions on application of nature based solutions.

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

☒ B=No

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

Please select only one per square.

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

9.8 Additional information

>>> For a) research on agriculture - wetland interactions specifically on grazing has been undertaken to inform wetland policies and plans for several sites Pestorsko polje, Obedska bara, Ludasko lake, Slano Kopovo and Koviljsko-Petrovaradinski rit ;

For b): During the preparation of the revised National Determined Contribution of the Republic of Serbia to the UNFCCC, the study on Nature Based Solutions was prepared and will be incorporated in NDC. Certain elements of that study are in regard to the wetlands and the role and importance to climate change mitigation and adaptation;

For c): Valuation of ecosystem services have been conducted for wetlands of Bosut forests through Case study: Advocating ESAV in Bosut Forests Area

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

☒ A=Yes

9.9 Additional information

>>> Proclamation of urban wetland area in capital city Belgrade as protected area Ada Ciganlija in 2023. Serbia has submitted one request for Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention.

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

☒ C=Partially

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

10.3 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

>>> Yes, for Djerdap and Koviljsko Petrovaradinski rit

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}

☒ D=Planned

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

>>> Yes, documented and applied such as for traditional grazing

Target 11

Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. {1.4.}

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 11, 12 and 13]

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

☒ A=Yes

11.1 Additional information

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

>>> Pilot study on ecosystem services was done for wetland Bosut forests, where the assessment of relation between floods and ecological character has been done. Upon that, project is in progress for further ecological flood management (FORRET project <https://interreg-croatia-serbia.eu/2014/project/forret/>).

Study for valuation of ecosystem services was developed for the Koviljsko-Petrovaradinski Rit Special Nature Reserve and Ramsar site in the framework of the UNDP/GEF financed project 'Ensuring financial sustainability of protected areas' (2015), implemented by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province.

An assessment of the ecosystem benefits/services provided has been made for several sites in the framework of various projects activities. The project 'Benefits of ecosystem services of the Djerdap National Park for the local community' (started in 2014) is being implemented by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia in partnership with Djerdap National Park, as part of the broader 'Bioregio Carpathians' project financed by the EU Cross-border Cooperation Programme for South-eastern Europe. A study will be developed on the ecosystem services in Djerdap and their integration with the economic and development policy.

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ A=Yes

11.3 Additional Information

>>> Pilot study on ecosystem services was done for wetland Bosut forests, where the assessment of relation between floods and ecological character has been done. Upon that, project is in progress for further ecological flood management (FORRET project <https://interreg-croatia-serbia.eu/2014/project/forret/>)

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

☒ A=Yes

11.4 Additional information

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

>>> Within the studies on protection of protected area and in their management plans socio-economic values of wetlands are included

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

☒ A=Yes

11.5 Additional information

>>> Within the studies on protection of protected area and in their management plans socio-economic values of wetlands are included

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?

☒ C=Partially

12.1 Additional Information

>>> For some areas wetland restoration targets have been established (Gornje Podunavlje)

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

☒ A=Yes

12.2 Additional information

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

>>> Gornje Podunavlje, Koviljsko Petrovaradinski rit, Obedska bara, Carska bara, Vlasina

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

☒ A=Yes

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}

☒ D=Planned

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]

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

☒ A=Yes

13.2 Additional information

>>> Pursuant to the Law on SEA, Ministry of Environmental protection during the reviewing process of the SEA reports seeks the opinion of relevant institutes for nature conservation

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

>>> Pursuant to the Law on EIA and relevant by-laws, Environmental Impact Assessments are done for any development projects

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.

>>> Republic of Serbia is involved in implementation of two regional initiatives, namely 1)Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative that brings together 27 Mediterranean and peri-Mediterranean countries that are Parties to the Convention. Participating countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, The FYR of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey and Palestinian Authority. A number of organizations and wetland centres are also part of the MedWet Initiative and

2)Carpathian Wetland Initiative, regional initiative with a mission to ensure and support the effective conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Carpathian region and beyond, through local, national, regional and international activities. It also facilitates collaboration between the Ramsar Convention and UNEP Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. Participating countries: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

3) Newly established Danube Wildisland RRI, the first river-based RRI in Europe, has been supported by Serbia and will be implemented.

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

d) Local/site level	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
---------------------	--

16.1 Additional information

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

>>> Objectives of CEPA are incorporated in strategic and planning documents on all levels in the country and are implemented within the work of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, institutes for nature conservation, managers of protected areas, NGOs, etc.

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

>>> 8

b) at other wetlands

☒ E=# centres

>>> 3

16.3 Does the Contracting Party {16.3}

Please select only one per square.

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

16.3 Additional information

>>> In the process of valorisation of an area to be protected, institutes for nature protection hold stakeholder meetings and land use is considered when establishing protection regimes. Also the local communities are mainly involved in management through traditional use, grazing, reed management, fishing, tourism

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}

☒ B=No

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

Please select only one per square.

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

c) other ministries, departments and agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
---	--

16.6 Additional information

>>> a) Regular annual meetings of the Ministry of Environmental protection and managers of protected areas including Ramsar sites are platforms for sharing Ramsar implementation guidelines and other relevant information between AA and site managers.

b) Ministry of Environmental Protection is the AA for all biodiversity MEAs and FPs are consulting between themselves and participate in the various working groups for relevant issues.

c) Other ministries and relevant organizations are involved in management planning pursuant to the Law on Nature Protection through the process of providing opinion to the management plans of all PAs including ecological network and Ramsar sites.

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

>>> Each year at the occasion of WWD special public events are organized, presentations, lectures, exhibitions, field visits, art competition for children etc, all reflecting the importance and relation of given theme for respective year. Reports are regularly sent to Ramsar Secretariat.

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

>>> Danube day manifestation is carried on June 29th each year.

Regular public raising awareness activities on Ramsar sites and other protected wetlands.

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

>>> Series of publications were made: monography series named Ramsar sites of Vojvodina have been published for Stari Begej Carska bara, Obedska bara, Slano Kopovo, Labudovo Okno, by the Provincial Secretariat for Environmental Protection. Other promotional material has also been published, including publication for Vlasina, Atlas of breeding birds of Zasavica, Birds of Djerdap etc. Almost all Ramsar sites have their websites developed.

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]

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

Please select only one per square.

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

17.3 Additional information

for example from which countries or agencies

>>> The project "EU for the Green Agenda in Serbia-protecting and investing in biodiversity and water for enhanced climate resilience", in partnership with the Ministry of Environmental Protection, implemented by UNDP for the period 2022-2026 (Government of Sweden 1,8 mil \$)

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.

>>> These activities usually include: water regime monitoring, water regime regulation, mowing of wet meadows, bird island maintenance, monitoring of species and habitats, revitalization and restoration of wet habitats, cleaning of clogged canals where the flow of water is difficult, continued removal of plant invasive species, inventory of flora and fauna.

For the year 2023 the amount of 100.000 EUR was allocated from the national budget.

For the year 2024 the amount of 230.000 EUR was allocated from the national budget.

Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels

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

☒ B=No

18.1 Additional information

>>> The national Ramsar/Wetland Committee has not been established

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

☒ A=Yes

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

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

18.3 Additional information

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

>>> The project "EU for the Green Agenda in Serbia-protecting and investing in biodiversity and water for enhanced climate resilience", in partnership with the Ministry of Environmental Protection, implemented by UNDP for the period 2022-2026 (Government of Sweden 1,8 mil \$)

<https://www.undp.org/media/1210146/download?inline>

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ A=Yes

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

>>> Shared wetland systems are taken into account during the preparation and implementation of RBMPs for Sava and Danube river basins and there is effective multilateral management through the work of the International Commission for the Protection of Danube River and International Commission for Sava River.

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

>>> DANUBE4all-Restoration of the Danube River Basin Waters for Ecosystems and People from Mountains to Coast, funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme.

The overarching ambition of DANUBE4all is the development of a strategic Danube Basin Restoration Action Plan (DBRAP) to enhance the ecological status and improve biodiversity and ecosystem connectivity.

Regular International Waterbird Census has been conducted by leadership of BirdLife Serbia and involvement of numerous governmental subjects and Ramsar site managers.

Target 19

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20]

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ C=Partially

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

☒ C=Partially

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ G=More than #

>>> 5

b) at other wetlands

☒ G=More than #

>>> 5

19.4 Additional information

>>> Yearly training seminars with all managers of protected areas including Ramsar sites have been held during the reporting period. Also, various projects provide training opportunities.

In the framework of the project "EU for the Green Agenda in Serbia-Protecting and investing in biodiversity and water for enhanced climate resilience", two-day workshop on "Strengthening capacity for wetland management in the Republic of Serbia" was held on 28-29. October 2024.

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

☒ A=Yes

