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
››› submission letter is attached below

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Submission_letter_Slovakia_National_Report_Ramsar_COP15.pdf

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority
››› Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title
››› Mgr. Paula Mičo Bujňáková, PhD.; acting director general, Directorate for Nature and Biodiversity

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Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

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››› Mgr. Adriana Kušíková, PhD.; Mgr. Katarína Borošová (temporary in charge of the Ramsar Convention agenda)

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

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

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

Name and title
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Name of organisation
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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)
››› Emphasizing the Ramsar Convention into the key strategic waterpolicy document „Concept of Water Policy for 2021-2030 with outlook to 2050 and mainstreaming of wetland ecosystems in national strategies and plans (e.g. on adaptation to climate change, 2030 Environmental policy etc.)

2)
››› Update of the Action Plan for Wetlands for period 2022 – 2024 for implementation of the Management Plan for Wetlands of Slovakia until 2024

3)
››› Implementation of the national cross-sectoral projects aimed to river and wetland conservation and restoration

4)
››› Strengthening the protection of numerous wetland sites including rivers under the Natura 2000 network and new provisions for wetlands conservation in the law (§ 6 of Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection as amended)

5)
››› Strengthening the cross-sectoral and transboundary cooperation

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

1)
››› Legislation and personal changes

2)
››› Different priorities among sectors

3)
››› Lack of financial resources and human capacities

4)
››› Involvement of stakeholders in the conservation, management and restoration of wetlands

5)
››› Economic interests and increasing pressure from the development activities on all types of wetlands

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

1)
››› Conservation of natural wetland habitats and restoration of degraded wetlands

2)
››› Protection of additional wetland sites and their management, including in the river basin management plans

3)
››› Ensure financial resources for monitoring of ecological state of Ramsar sites and other wetlands

4)
››› Elaboration of the National Wetland Inventory (map)

5)
››› Strengthened cross-sectoral and international cooperation and governance

D. Does the Administrative Authority have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention Secretariat?
››› No recommendations

E. Does the Administrative Authority have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs) (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to be developed)?
››› No recommendations

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.
››› Women and men are equally involved in development of strategic documents, action plans and decisions and research

G. On the basis of your indications above, list possible areas where change is necessary for the achievement of gender equality.
››› not relevant

H. Please describe lessons learnt in the context of wetlands and gender equality work in your country.
››› There are no gender equality issues in Slovakia. Both sex have the same opportunities depending on education, specialization, professional qualifications and position.

I. If possible, please list gender-related policies, strategies and action plans in place relevant to wetlands in your country.
››› not relevant

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).
››› not relevant

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 Environment of the Slovak Republic and its units (hereinafter also referred to as "MoE")
State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and its units (hereinafter also referred to as "SNC SR")
National Parks Administrations
Institute of Environmental Policy – an independent analytical unit of the MoE
Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
Ministry od Education, Science, Research and Youth of the Slovak Republic
The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, Department of Sustainable Development, Section for EU Strategic Initiatives
Slovak Environmental Agency
Daphne – Institute of Applied Ecology
Slovak Water Management Enterprise, state enterprise (hereinafter also referred to as "SWME")
Water Research Institute (hereinafter also referred to as "WRI")
Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia (hereinafter referred to as "SOS/BirdLife")
Bratislava Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development (hereinafter referred to as „BROZ")

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

››› Wetlands conservation and identification of wetlands benefits are integrated in:
Updated Action Plan for Wetlands for period 2022 – 2024 for implementation of the Management Plan for Wetlands of Slovakia until 2024 in Slovakia was adopted by the Government in 2022 and it is based on the 4th

Ramsar Strategic Plan.
Management Plan for Wetlands contains 4 overarching objectives and 18 goals. It is accompanied by an Action plan. The Action plan for 2022-24 includes 63 measures, estimated costs for some measures, potential sources of funding and responsible institutions;
https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/dohovory/ramsar/04_ap-navrh_2022-2024_fin_clean.pdf
Key national strategic document Water Policy Concept of the Slovak Republic until 2030 with a view to 2050 (hereinafter referred to as “Water Policy 2030”) was adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2022.
The main mission of the Water Policy 2030 is to ensure the gradual restoration of damaged water bodies, to stop water pollution and groundwater depletion, and to ensure the availability of drinking water in the regions. It defines ten interrelated priority areas and assigns to each of them objectives, measures and a timeframe for their fulfilment.
The Water Policy 2030 identified several major challenges facing the water sector in Slovakia, including the lack of an integrated approach in river basins (in protection, planning and management); legislation not fully supporting new challenges in water protection and use; lack of methodologies and standards; lack of state capacities; and inappropriate investment policy and financing of water management. The main aims of the Water Policy 2030 are to develop an integrated approach to solutions of common and specific problems identified in order to underpin implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the Flood Risk Directive, as transposed to Slovak legislation and planning documents. The Water Policy 2030 stands at the top level of water management planning in Slovakia and was developed by key experts from various fields of interest and organisations, academic sector, municipalities, NGOs, etc.
https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-vod/kvps2030_web.pdf
-The protection of water resources, aquatic and territorial ecosystems, and sustainable water use in Slovakia is regulated by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/ES (WFD), which is the fundamental related legislation. The output is the Water Plan of the Slovak Republic (2022-2027), which was prepared in close cooperation with competent water sector institutions (i.e. the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, the State Geological Institute of Dionýz Štúr, the SNC SR, the Slovak Environmental Agency, the Slovak Water Management Company, the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate, etc.) and with the parties concerned. The Water Plan of Slovakia is a binding document that provides a basis for the protection and enhancement of the status of aquatic ecosystems, for sustainable and economic water use, and for the creation of better hydrological conditions and a territorial system for ecological stability and protection against the harmful effects of water pollution.
This document is the basic tool that enables to meet water planning objectives in river basins. It comprises the Danube River Basin Management Plan, including management plans for the Danube, Morava, Váh, Hron, Ipeľ, Slaná, Bodrog, Hornád and Bodva sub-basins, and the Vistula River Basin Management Plan, including the management plan for the Dunajec and Poprad sub-basins. The river basin management plans comprise programs of measures designed to meet environmental objectives. River basin management plans and of sub-basin management plans are elaborated by the MoE through the its supervised organizations, in cooperation with the state water administration authorities, other concerned state administration authorities and other stakeholders, in particular the representatives of municipalities, industry, agriculture, water supply companies and other institutions, non-governmental organizations and the public concerned. The Water Plan of Slovakia also includes a public water supply development plan, a public sewerage development plan, and a flood risk management plan for Slovakia.
River basin management plans are prepared on the basis of analysing the impact of human activities on water bodies and assessing their current status. In view of WFD requirements and the environmental objectives, we draw up programs of measures for their accomplishment, including an estimate of financial costs. The basic units of water planning are surface-water and groundwater bodies, the delineation of which is updated in each planning cycle. https://www.minzp.sk/voda/vodny-plan-slovenska/.
-The Government of the Slovak Republic also adopted specific Action plan to address the consequences of drought and water scarcity (https://www.minzp.sk/voda/koncepcne-aplanovacie-dokumenty/h2odnota-je-voda-akcny-plan-rieseniedosledkov-sucha-nedostatku-vody.html).
- Strategy of the Environmental Policy of the Slovak Republic until 2030 (2019) identifies protection of forest, grassland and wetland ecosystems as one of the main environmental issues in Slovakia. It includes measures and targets in water management, biodiversity and landscape protection, wetland restoration, sustainable land use and management, flood prevention and other wetland related priorities.
https://www.minzp.sk/files/iep/greener-slovakia-2030.pdf
-National Forestry Plan includes measures for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity of the rivers and lakes, management of small watercourses, mitigation of climate change impact and drought, maintenance and improvement of ecosystem services of forests,
-The National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) was adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2018 and the role of wetlands in mitigating and adapting to climate change is highlighted in this document (as generally the whole ecosystems based approach). Wetland restoration, conservation and management are included also in the adopted Action Plan for implementation of the NAS (2021). The role of wetlands will be also solved in the new NAS, which is under development (to be adopted in 2025);
- The principles of this policy were included also in the Prioritized Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000

Network in the Slovak Republic pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework and updated PAF for period 2021 – 2027 (https://www.minzp.sk/natura2000/prioritny-akcny-ramec-financovania-natura-2000-slovenskej-republike/.
-In the Updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was formulated a measure to develop strategic framework for priority setting in the ecosystem restoration and to prepare and implement wetland and river ecosystem restoration program as a contribution to climate change mitigation.
https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/sk/sk-nbsap-v3-en.pdf
https://minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/dohovory/biodiverzita/1_vlastny_ap-biod_aug_2014.pdf
-The Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute builds different tools (data, trends, maps, scenarios) that can help also in planning of mitigation and adaptation to climate change in wetlands.
-Rural Development Program of SR 2014-2022 and Strategic plan of Common agricultural policy (CAP) SR 2023-2027 and their measures/interventions were supporting conservation and protection of wetlands. Most important schemes are conditionality (I. pillar), Agro-environmental measures and Payments for areas with natural or other special constraints (II. Pillar) Rural development area based payments of Rural Development Program of SR 2014-2022 ended in 2022. From 2023, they were replaced by more environmental interventions of Strategic plan of Common agricultural policy SR 2023-2027. As a part of the new program period, new schemes that support the protection of wetlands have been added such as Agro-environmental measure – support of waterlogged arable soils and new GAEC 2 – protection of wetlands and peatlands (implementations starts from 2025).
https://www.mpsr.sk/prv-sr-2014-2022/47-43-935
https://www.apa.sk/legislativa-spp-2023-2027

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}
☑ A=Yes

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

››› WRI started process of environmental flow quantification in 2021

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

☑ A=Yes

2.4 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
››› EU Water Framework Directive provisions and related laws and guidelines have been applied

2.5 Additional Information
››› LIFE21-IPE-SK-LIFE Living Rivers -101069837
Implementation of the river basin management plan in selected river sub-basins in Slovakia
An integrated approach to the protection of rivers, native fish species and target habitats
2023 – 2032
(6 public bodies, 1 university, 3 NGOs)
The main goal of the LIFE Living Rivers project is to contribute to the implementation of the 3rd River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Danube (2021-2027) by implementing measures to eliminate hydromorphological pressures, and by addressing ecological targets of the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive via the management of protected areas, and via sustainable forestry, land and fishery

management.
The project is focused on the implementation of the Water Plan of Slovakia within the Danube, Hron, Ipeľ and Belá river basins. The goal is to ensure good ecological status / good ecological potential (GES / GEP) of waters in 10 water bodies and thus improve a total of 344 km of water courses through hydromorphological measures, appropriate care of protected areas, restoration of floodplain forests and non-forest habitats and ensuring the removal of barriers to migration fish and strengthening their populations.
Project Partners:
• MoE
• Slovak Water Management Enterprise, state enterprise (SWME)
• State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC SR)
• Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development (BROZ)
• WWF Slovakia (WWF)
• Catch Me If You Can (CM)
• University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (JU)
• Administration of the Tatra National Park (TANAP)
• Water Management Construction, state enterprise (VVB)
Expected results:
• Nature-based solutions and green infrastructure implemented to increase climate resilience and enhance biodiversity;
• Connectivity of water bodies restored, improving ecosystems and wetlands habitats, habitat diversity, migration and spawning of fish species, and flow dynamics of rivers;
• Wetland and forest management practices introduced in Natura 2000 sites that restore vegetation cover on river banks and in floodplains;
• Innovative monitoring methods implemented to assess the effectiveness of project actions;
• Actions replicated in other river basin areas in Slovakia;
• Increased awareness and public acceptance of nature-based solutions and river restoration activities.
https://livingrivers.sk/
LIFE23-NAT-SK-LIFE RESISTANCE
2024 –2030
Comprehensive restoration of Danube floodplain habitats and support for resistance to plant invasive alien species (IAS).
One of the most significant drivers of biodiversity loss is expansion of IAS. The project presents a comprehensive approach to support resistance of Danube alluvial habitats of Community interest (*91E0, 6440, 3270, 91F0) towards IAS. Totally 15 Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) are targeted in Slovakia and Hungary. Altered water regime, intensive forestry, abandonment of traditional management, especially extensive grazing, initiates degradation of habitats and enables spreading of IAS. Through various complementary measures – 120 ha of wetlands and 20 ha of floodplain forest habitats will be restored and nature friendly grazing on 720 ha reintroduced. Using the synergy of above-mentioned actions together with mechanical, biological and chemical methods of IAS eradication, target IAS will be removed on 850 ha. Ecological conditions of the habitats will be improved, and their resistance to IAS increased by natural processes, with long-term and sustainable result. Water regime will be restored by flooding of natural depressions and gentle forestry methods will be tested and applied. Grazing, as a natural and traditional feature of alluvial habitats (incl. forests) will be reintroduced – to increase diversity of alluvial habitats, their resistance to IAS and promote dynamic processes of river. Various innovative methods are applied: comprehensive approach to IAS early management, detection system using drone and satellite data build upon ESA projects, biological control of Ailanthus altissima, improvement of tree seedling survival by implementing usage of local mycorrhizal fungi, detected by DNA analyses and monitoring of project impact on fauna by eDNA metabarcoding methods. A complex set of awareness raising and dissemination actions is involved, covering all relevant target audience groups (stakeholders, experts, teachers, students, children and public) to support sustainability of the project results. Emphasis is given on increasing the replicability and improving policies and agro-envi scheme (CAP).
https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE23-NAT-SK-LIFE-RESISTANCE-101148377/comprehensive-restoration-of-danube-floodplain-habitats-and-support-for-resistance-to-plant-invasive-alien-species.
Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor
LIFE20 NAT/AT/000063-LIFE WILDisland
2021-2027
The WILDisland project aims to strengthen the conservation status of the softwood alluvial forest priority habitat by restoring 34 islands along the entire Danube. The individual partners are responsible for the restoration of specific islands, but in order to achieve the higher goal of improving the condition of the Danube and the priority habitat, mutual cooperation is needed between all the countries involved.
The responsible partner for project implementation in Slovakia is BROZ. The restoration of 2 islands is planned. At the locality of Sap, the closed side arm supply will be dug, which will increase the water flow in the arm and the local island will be restored. The increased inflow of water is likely to change the character of the bank and thus create conditions suitable for the emergence of a priority habitat of softwood alluvial forest. On the island, we plan to restore the natural forest by planting native trees. At the Kližská Nemá locality,

groynes will be modified for the first time in Slovakia in order to increase the inflow of water into the side arm. The groynes fulfill the function of directing the flow for navigation, which reduces the dynamics of the water along the shore. By modifying the groynes, we plan to achieve a higher water flow in the side arm, restore the local island and also assume a positive impact on the bank and the adjacent forest. In addition to the design of revitalisation measures, the preparatory phase of the project also included scanning of the project areas using LiDAR technology, which works on the principle of transmitting light pulses. LiDAR systems can record information from the top of the tree to the ground.
https://broz.sk/en/projekty/wildisland-danube-wild-island-habitat-corridor/
In 2023 planning project Reconnecting the Latorica river floodplain landscape in a transboundary context funded by the Endangered Landscapes & Seascapes Program was started. Project is led by Wetlands International European Association and brings transboundary cooperation between relevant expert organizations in Slovakia and Ukraine.
Through a combination of reconnecting and seasonal rewetting of floodplains, as well as active transboundary management, the project envisions a restored wetland landscape. That landscape extends up to 38,000 ha and will support abundant biodiversity, flood and drought protection, whilst also providing sustainable livelihoods from nature friendly land management. Stakeholders from both countries will be brought together to share knowledge and understanding to co-develop a framework for the restoration of the landscape.
The project is made possible by the active collaboration of government and NGO partners in Slovakia and Ukraine, including: the SNC SR, BirdLife Slovakia, Slovak Water Management Enterprise, Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Department of Ecology and Natural Resources of Zakarpattia Oblast of Ukraine, Uzhgorod interregional Water Management of the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine, and Ukrainian NGOs Danube-Carpathian Programme and Ekosphera.
https://www.endangeredlandscapes.org/project/latorica/
Projects implemented and founded by Norway Grants
These projects are implemented under the Program Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. The Program Operator is MoE.
ACC04P04 Wetland restoration - Velka Krcava and Zitavsky luh has been implemented by SWME in cooperation with NGO SOS/Birdlife Slovakia in 2021-2023.
The objective of the project is the restoration of two important wetlands in two locations in southern Slovakia, which have been degraded as a result of water management in the past and the overall change of the landscape and its use. The wetlands in question have great potential and importance in terms of water retention in the landscape, protection against drought and biodiversity conservation, but are currently threatened by land degradation, overgrowth and drying out. The project implemented technical measures to create conditions for the irrigation and retention of water in the wetlands, especially during periods of sufficient flows in the watercourses. Another focus of the project is to create lateral connectivity of the wetlands and to prevent runoff of water intercepted by the wetlands. The overall design and implementation of all parts of the revitalisation represents a comprehensive approach to revitalising the areas and includes all elements and current challenges of biodiversity conservation, improving the favorable condition of Natura 2000 sites and ensuring water retention in the landscape in the context of the challenges posed by climate change.
https://www.svp.sk/en/wetland-restoration-velka-krcava-zitavsky-luh/
http://vtaky.sk/stranka/345-Obnova-mokradi-jazero-Velka-Krcava-a-Zitavsky-luh-ACC04P04.html
ACC04P02 Ecohydrological Restoration of Peatlands in the Carpathians
2022-2023
SNC SR in cooperation with Daphne – Institute of Applied Ecology and Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)
The project aims to restore 12 wetlands (peatlands - 352 ha in total) in different part of Slovakia (Western, Eastern, Northern) by implementation of hydrological restoration measures and applying climate-responsible peatland management. Study of wetland functions as carbon sink will be conducted in cooperation with Norwegian Partner (NINA) including methodological training for Slovak experts. Best-practice methodological guidelines for sustainable management of forested peatlands on local and national level will be prepared. Working with and involving relevant local stakeholders and local communities will ensure the long-term sustainability of the project. Public campaign to raise awareness on role of peatlands within climate change. New innovative educational methodology and tools will be elaborated and incorporated into the curriculum of local schools at project sites.
Main project target groups are: general public, students from local schools and local stakeholders (landowners and land users, foresters and administrators of forest).
https://obnovaraselinisk.sopsr.sk/o-projekte/
ACC04P01 Wetlands for life and well-being: Morava river alluvium ramsar site restoration – Green Foundation
2022-2024
The Green Foundation is the leader of the project partnership, and other members of the consortium are BROZ and NINA. The main goal of the project is to restore at least 210,000 m2 of degraded wetlands belonging to the Morava River Ramsar Site in the cadastral area of the village of Malé Leváre. The project partnership teamed up with local landowners, who decided to dedicate abandoned meadows and extensively used agricultural land to restore local wetland ecosystems. This positive precedent will support and encourage

other landowners in the region to restore wetlands or switch to organic and sustainable farming practices. Our shared vision is to create a place suitable for relaxation and education on the importance of local wetlands. When planning a nature trail, we have also thought of people with autism spectrum disorders, to whom the track will be friendly.
https://greenfoundation.eu/en/projekt/acc04p01-wetlands-for-life-and-prosperity-restoration-of-the-ramsar-site-in-the-alluvium-of-the-morava/
ACC04P03 Save wetland together
2023
NGO Water for Climate - environmental technologies in cooperation with SNC SR, Primary school with kindergarten of Maximilian Hell in Štiavnické Bane and University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava Norwegian University of Life Science realized project focus on the restoration of 4 specific wetlands in the Štiavnické vrchy mountains (the total area of these wetlands is almost 197 000 m2). Educational activities and lectures for schools and kindergartens and participation on restoration activities and also removal of woody plants a grazing of sites were included.
ACC04P05 Status improvement of wetland of Klátovské rameno NNR located in SKUEV0075,
Lead partner - Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, in cooperation with three partners SWME, Civil Faculty of Slovak Technical University, NGO Zelené dedičstvo –Zöld örökség. The aim of project was to enhance degraded status of Klátovské rameno Natura 2000 site (at the same time the national nature reserve – NNR). It was realized from October 2022 to April 2024, and project successfully renewed original gravel habitats (gravel island, gravel bench realized in the cadaster of Trhová Hradská village), water level is higher now and mud on the bottom is reduced. The gravel habitats are unfortunately missing in the Klátovské rameno. There have been proposed/projected many more measures along 32 km long Klátovské arm, along 3 km long Čótfa arm and along 6 km long Soliari arm to enhance status of wetland and which will be realized in the following years. The educational trail was built, too and many educational activities to raise awareness on wetlands fauna and flora for pupils and general public were organized. Background paper for management plan of the Klátovské rameno was compiled.
www.mokradeklatovske.sk
https://www.eeagrants.sk/en/projects/zlepsenie-stavu-mokrade-npr-klatovske-rameno-na-uzemi-skuev0075/?csrt=11946882944470932155
ACC04P06 Improving the condition of selected wetlands in the left-hand branch system of the Danube River, Water Management Construction, state enterprise, Bratislava and SWME
The main goal of the project implemented in 2022-2024 is to improve the condition and restoration of natural habitats of the floodplain forest wetlands in the Danube river arm system in the territory of the Trnava region, in the district of Dunajská Streda.
The project is aimed at improving the condition of selected wetlands of the left-hand branch system of the Danube River in accordance with the results of the study “Restoration of the flow and lateral continuity of the Danube branch system using hydrodynamic modelling” prepared by the WRI in 01/2018 within the project UFE 14 NAT/SK/001306 Restoration and management of Danube floodplain habitats (hereinafter referred to as the “WRI study”) and the subject of the solution will be 2 specific lines of the dams. According to the results of the WRI study, the project activities will increase the flow dynamics in the affected area.
https://dunajskemokrade.sk/en/about-project/
SWME realized few more projects and revitalizations of oxbows. Namelytwo small Danube arms one approx. 0,6 km long with a bird wall in 2022 and second one approx. 2,0 km long in 2022, too. Another oxbow lake on Rimava river was revitalized in Veľké Teriakovce cadastre in 2022. In 2022 6,0 km long Hrubošúrske arm (side arm of Malý Dunaj river), 7,0 km of Dolný Dudváh during 2021 and 2022 as well as 1,9 km of Chocholnica were revitalized in 2021, to mentioned afew examples.

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

Living rivers

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

2.6 Additional Information
››› Out of the total number of 173 registered municipal wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in Slovakia there are registered 10 natural WWTPs and 5 root WWTPs in operation.

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.
››› Incentives under the Common Agricultural Policy/CAP linked to the protection of peatlands and wetlands will be linked also to their protection – users and owners of the agricultural land, who are receiving direct payments, will have to do those kind of activities and investments, which will lead to their better management and protection.

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

››› As mentioned above, farmers with agricultural land, where are also wetlands, will be better financially supported for their protection and management of wetlands within CAP.

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).
››› Intervention of Strategic plan of Common Agriculture Policy (2023-2027), that partially helps with protection and preservation of wetlands include obligations to prevent damage on this kind of biotopes. They also manage to protect water sources from nitrate pollution from agricultural sources. For example goal of Agro-environmental measure – support of waterlogged arable soils is to implement agricultural practices in such a way to enable less intensive use of parts of land (that are waterlogged) and that are nesting areas of endangered species of birds.

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

☑ A=Yes

3.4 Additional Information

Please specify the actions that have been taken to remove perverse incentive measures (e.g. removal of subsidies for agricultural expansion) and provide the source links or upload the source documents here.
››› Water Policy Concept of the Slovak Republic until 2030 with a view to 2050 adopted by the Slovak Government in 2022 identified several major problems facing the water sector in Slovakia, including the lack of an integrated approach in river basins (in protection, planning and management). The main mission of the concept is to ensure the gradual restoration of damaged water bodies, to stop water pollution and groundwater depletion, and to ensure the availability of drinking water in the regions. The Water Plan of Slovakia is the basic tool that enables us to meet water planning objectives in river basins. This document includes a specific list of restoration and rehabilitation measures, including the setting of their priorities for respective water courses, which should ensure significant elimination of harmful interventions in river ecosystems and their gradual restoration where necessary. Ramsar sites have a special position in the selection of priority areas and consider them with particular emphasis. Conservation and wise use of wetlands is also part of the Strategic Plan of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) SR 2023-2027.

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
››› Slovakia does not have a specific national inventory of invasive alien species (IAS) that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands. The Slovak Republic adopted in 2019 a new Act No. 150/2019 Coll. on prevention, management and eradication of IAS. Inventory of IAS is included in the annual work plans of the SNC SR. Inventory of IAS covers inventory of species listed both in the List of IAS of Union concern and in the List of IAS of national concern (National list of IAS published in the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No 449/2019 Coll.) IAS that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands are included in these Lists. Other alien species are also subject of inventory. Data gained in the inventory are included into the Complex Information and Monitoring System (KIMS) managed by SNC SR: http://www.biomonitoring.sk/Home/OccurenceData
Besides KIMS, data on IAS/alien species are gathered in database systems of other institutions, e.g.: Plant Science and Biodiversity Center of the Slovak Academy of Sciences developed databases for plant species and information on the occurrence of IAS/alien species is available in the Central Database of Phytocenological Relevés (CDF) or Database of Alien Plant Species (DASS): http://dass.sav.sk/
Water Research Institute (WRI) is conducting comprehensive water management research, which also includes monitoring of ground water resources and IAS are part of this monitoring.

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

4.2 Additional information
››› National legislation is carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions. Following policies, strategies and action plans concerning IAS were developed, agreed and are being implemented as a respond to the obligations resulting from international conventions and European Union legislation:
Updated National Biodiversity Strategy in Slovakia and the Action Plan for implementation of measures of the National Biodiversity Strategy;
The Slovak Wetland Management Program (National Wetland Policy until 2024) and Action Plan (2022 – 2024) to this
Program which implements Resolution 8.18 on Invasive Species and Wetlands of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
Concept of nature and landscape protection up to 2030. The Concept also covers issue of IAS.
Complex analysis of the pathways of unintentional introduction and spread of IAS of Union concern (available at:
https://www.minzp.sk/files/komplexna-analyza-prienikovych-ciest-neumyselnej-introdukcie-neumyselneho-irenia-invaznych-nepovodnych-druhov-vzbudzujucich-obavy-unie.pdf);
Action Plan on the pathways of unintentional introduction and spread of IAS of Union concern (available at: https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/akcny-plan-riesenie-problematiky-prienikovych-ciest-neumyselnej-introdukcie-neumyselneho-sirenia-invaznych-nepovodnych-druhov-uzemie-slovenskej-republiky-uzemie-eu-cez-uzemie-slovenskej-republiky.pdf).

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

https://www.minzp.sk/files/komplexna-analyza-prienikovych-ciest-neumyselnej-introdukcie-neumyselneho-irenia-invaznych-nepovodnych-druhov-vzbudzujucich-obavy-unie.pdf

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

››› red swamp crawfish (Procambarus clarkii) – rapid eradication plan

4.3 Additional Information
››› On 22 June 2022 the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the Pathways Action Plan, which was based on Analysis of the Pathways.
In 2024 rapid eradication plan for red swamp crawfish was implemented by the Administration of National Park Veľká Fatra (river of Teplica in the Trenčianske Teplice district) and by SNC SR, Administration of Protected Landscape Area Dunajské luhy (artificial channel near the town Komárno, district of Komárno).
New project NAT-SK-LIFE RESISTANCE Comprehensive restoration of Danube floodplain habitats and support for resistance to plant invasive alien species has been implemented in 15 Natura 2000 sites and the Danube floodplain Ramsar Site.
SWME in relation to the inventory, control and monitoring of the development of communities of invasive

plant species ensures these activities and removal of invasive plants in the management of watercourses and their bankside lands, especially in urban areas, on land owned by the Slovak Republic, under the administration of SWME, in order to prevent the spread of these species to new habitats, depending on available funding and capacity. For effective elimination or eradication of invasive plant species provides information and a comprehensive solutions to the owners, administrators or land users of all affected lands so that these species do not spread to the surrounding environment. For example, the SWME annually, on the basis of the decision of the Michalovce District Office, branch Sobrance no. 2008/00335 of 14 October 2008, ensures the removal of the invasive plant Heracleum mantegazzianum, which occurs on the banks of the protective dam and in the inundation area of the Uh River. The date of filling was set - until the final removal of the invasive plant.

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

4.4 Additional Information
››› Both sites with the occurrence of red swamp crawfish are being monitored and effectiveness of activities done within the rapid eradication plan are being assessed.

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

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

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

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

5.1 Additional information
››› The activities are included in Action Plan for Wetlands 2022-2024 to the National Management Plan of Wetlands of Slovakia until 2024.
https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/dohovory/ramsar/04_ap-navrh_2022-2024_fin_clean.pdf

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

››› 2

5.2 – 5.4 Additional information
››› Management plans have been formally adopted for those Ramsar Sites, which are included in Natura 2000 network (namely Ramsar sites Morava, Turiec wetlands, Latorica, Rudava Valley, Wetlands of Orava Basin, Poiplie and Parížske močiare). Totally, 31 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and 453 SCIs in Slovakia are identified as water related., Management plans for SPAs and SCIs fulfill the role of the management plans for the most of the Ramsar Sites.. Management plans are developed and are in various stages of negotiation / processes of adoption.
Till now the Government of the Slovak Republic approved 24 of totally 41 SPAs, available at https://www.minzp.sk/natura2000/chranene-vtacie-uzemia/programy-starostlivosti-chvu.html
From the most recent one the relevant are management plans for the Medzibodrožie SPA and for Senianske rybníky (2022-2051) adopted in 2022. List of SCIs including link to the site specific conservation objectives (elaborated in 2023 for all 644 SCIs) and to the management plan, if adopted is at:

https://www.minzp.sk/natura2000/uzemia-europskeho-vyznamu/mapy-prehlad-uev.html.
LIFE Integrated project “Role of the Natura 2000 network and management of some prioritized habitats in the integrated landscape protection of the Slovak Republic“ includes activities for management and restoration of habitats and species including in some Ramsar Sites (Morava Floodplains, Latorica, Wetlands of the Orava Basin). Several LIFE projects in some Ramsar sites aimed to the opening Danube side arms were implemented by BROZ. Number of moving and grazing activities were organized by state institution and NGOs in the following Ramsar Sites: Danube Floodplains, Wetlands of the Orava Basin, Turiec wetlands, Latorica, Parížske močiare. For RS Klátovské rameno a draft of management plan (background paper) was compiled based on results of project ACC04PO5 realized via Norway Grants.

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

››› In some parts of Ramsar Sites are implemented the formal management plans and/or projects with assessment of the effectiveness of their management.

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

››› Ramsar Site Latorica

5.6 Additional information
››› Latorica Ramsar Site
Establishment of temporary cross-sectoral Steering Committee is one of the goal of ongoing project Reconnecting the Latorica river floodplain landscape in a transboundary context funded by the Endangered Landscapes & Seascapes Programme and lead by Wetlands International. Project supports active collaboration of government and NGO partners- SNC SR, SOS/BirdLife Slovakia, Slovak Water Management Enterprise, Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute and the mirror institutions in Ukraine. This is the basis to establish active transboundary and cross-sectoral cooperation which has been lacking between the countries and will lead to the co-development of a shared vision for the landscape’s future.

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

››› 14

5.7 Additional information

For example give the name and official number of the Site or Sites.
››› The ecological character description is a part of updated RIS for each Ramsar Site.

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.
››› RIS and maps for 14 Ramsar Sites were partially updated.
Ecological character description (updated):
RUDAVA RIVER VALLEY
The Rudava River itself and its valley represent a rich variety of natural and semi-natural habitats which is quite unique in Slovakia and therefore has a great importance for the conservation of biodiversity in the region. The natural values are mostly concentrated in the middle section of the river. Unlike the upper and lower sections, this one has never been altered and therefore the natural state of the river and its surrounding has been preserved.
Extremely dry sand dunes are in the close contact with floodplain forests, peat bogs, wet meadows and other wetlands. Clear water from springs under the dunes contributes to maintaining suitability for species and communities requiring good quality of water.
Due to extreme conditions (like persistence of cold air in inter-dune depressions) on some localities, there are also present some communities which are usually typical for the mountains in the altitude of about 1000 - 1500 m above the sea level. In addition some species have survived since the glacial periods in suitable habitats (for example some Sphagnum species).
Due to high diversity of habitats the large number of species and communities with different ecological

requirements on a relatively small area can be found there. According to the surveys there have been recorded 505 species of vascular plants (many of them are on the national Red List of plants), more than 1000 beetle species, at least 36 fish species, 13 species of amphibians and 5 species of reptiles, 118 bird species and 26 mammal species. Even the species which are rare in the whole Europe like the otter and the European beaver can be found here. Until now, no detailed biological research on invertebrates (except macrozoobenthos and dragonflies) has been carried out within the area. However, there were found some species which do not occur on any other place in Slovakia, or which are extremely rare.

DOMICA

Several types of habitats occur in the site on the surface. The habitat of submontane alder alluvial forests is located in the vale parts along intermittent water areas, further habitats include: Carpathian oak-hornbeam forests, Pannonian forest with oak, quite frequent are Pannonian-Balkanic Turkey oak forests, highly important are lowland hay meadows with a high diversity of autochthonous flora species, Molina meadows, semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates with high abundance of threatened, rare and protected species.

The aquatic cave ecosystem contains three basic ecological groups of fauna, characterized by different affinity and various adaptations to this peculiar environment. We can find here the genuine subterranean animals, as well as animals occurring except for caves also in their original water environment on surface, or accidental individuals strayed from adjacent surface habitats. The specific feature of the cave system is a broad interconnection of its hydrological system with surface wetlands, which is demonstrated by more frequent occurrence of invertebrate species, characteristic for epigean habitats directly in the underground riverbed of the Styx. Dominant in cave communities are saprophagous springtails, crustaceans and also predatory and guanophilic mites. Presence of specialized hypogean crustaceans in the Domica Cave is bound mainly to interstitial and hyporheic zones of underground flow of Styx. Up to now, eight aquatic subterranean forms are known here. On the surface of standing waters, it is possible to observe subpopulations of springtails, which are a component of so-called epineuston. Cave habitats of this area are, thanks to their favourable natural conditions, suitable sites for populations of bats, which use the caves for hibernation as well as summer roosts. Their numerous occurrences in the cave contribute to the development of guanophilic invertebrate communities, for which the organic matter from guano is one of the most important nutritive sources. A permanent dweller of the cave system is the endemic millipede Typhloiulus sp., which is very rare in cave systems. Another sparse animal with troglomorphic features is the dipluran Plusiocampa sp., which is known only from four caves in the Western Carpathians. The presence of surface wetlands secures an adequate environment for the existence and reproduction of seven amphibian species. They also use entrance parts of caves for dormancy or waiting out the unfavourable conditions.

DUNAJSKÉ LUHY

Hydrological conditions along the Danube are the major determinants for an occurrence of heterogeneous communities - aquatic, wetland, meadow, forest, up to psammophilous ones. Forest communities are affected mainly by groundwater level and occasional floods. According to the groundwater level, different association types could be determined; from riparian willow formations, through great Medio-European fluvial forests up to Pannonic and Sub-Pannonic thickets and eastern white oak woods. Majority of forest stands are monoculture plantations of Euro-American hybrid poplars. In the floodplain area of the site allochthonous tree species grow or are planted. Into the forest stands are intruding invasive alien plant species, lately, Fallopia japonica expanding after disturbances related to forest management.

On the site of interest occur protected plant species such as Leucojum aestivum, which is the most frequent plant out of all protected species growing in the floodplain area.

Aquatic and wetland ecosystems constitute nearly one third of the Ramsar Site. Most valuable ecosystem is present in the side branch system which used to be part once a larger Danubian inland delta. Water depth and dynamics of the water regime throughout the year are the basic hydrological factors determining the existence of a diverse mosaic of wetland habitats. In the eastern part of the Ramsar Site, outside of the floodplain area is located very valuable oxbow lake Číčovské mŕtve rameno, rich in wetland plant communities. Diversity of environmental factors determines the regions high abundance of plant species and corresponding high diversity of zoocoenosis. There were recorded almost all fish species occurring in Slovakia. Breeding bird communities are well documented.

Majority of the Ramsar Site is directly in contingency with dikes presenting secondary grassland habitats. Outside of floodplain area, beyond the dike is predominantly agricultural landscape. Such agrocoenosis is composed mostly of arable land planted usually with cereals (mostly wheat and barley), maize, oil-seed rape, less with alfalfa and vegetables.

CAVES OF THE DEMANOVA VALLEY

The aquatic cave ecosystem contains three basic ecological groups of fauna, characterised by different affinity and various adaptations to this peculiar environment. There can be found here the genuine subterranean animals, as well as animals occurring except for caves also in their original water environment on surface, or accidental individuals strayed from adjacent surface habitats here. At least 50 ecologically important species of invertebrates (troglobites/stygobites, troglophilous/stygophilous species) inhabit the Demänová Cave System, which represent key species in preserving the ecological stability and biodiversity within the biogeographic region. Most of caves in the Demänová Valley are generally oligotrophic due to lack of sources of organic matter. Trophic factors together with relatively low air temperature of caves ranging between 0 and 7 °C are considered to be main reasons why both diversity and richness of cave-dwelling fauna

are relatively lower in this region in comparison with more southern situated regions of the country. On the other side, local underground habitats belong to important refugia and even the northernmost sites in Europe, where several subterranean endemic and relict forms of invertebrates have been preserved during and after Pleistocene mountain glaciations in Central Europe. Hydrography of the territory has a significant effect on existence and diversity of the cave aquatic fauna. Surface and underground wetland habitats in the Demänová Valley predominantly form a mutually interconnected complex, communicating by way of numerous ponors, springs, and resurgences and percolating waters. That is the reason why any changes in water regime and quality on the surface are substantially influencing and changing also the ecological conditions underground. The Demänová Cave System alone is characterised by high number and diversity of water habitats comprising the permanent and also ephemeral streams of allochthonous or autochthonous origin, as well as various types of stagnant waters such as water pools, cave lakes or water-filled holes. Total species composition of the fauna is dependent on the contact of karstic waters with underground phreatic and especially with surface waters. Aquatic fauna is bound mainly to slow-streaming, interstitial and hyporheic zones of underground flow of Demänovka and its alluvial pools. More of them are of epigeic origin, which is apparently connected with the fauna of Vrbické pleso Tarn and water courses in the upper part of the Demänovka basin. Demänová Cave of Liberty and Štefanová Cave are the localities where wide spectrum of both underground and epigeic invertebrate species representing the zoobenthos and interstitial communities was recorded. Fauna of isolated cave pools is mostly represented by small crustacean species, whereas the top of water level is often inhabited by Collembola and Acarina.
Caves in this area are suitable to populations of bats, which use the caves for hibernation. Their occurrence in caves contributes to a certain measure (mostly in the isolated parts of the system) also to development of cave invertebrate societies, for which the organic matter from bat guano and cadavers is one of a few nutritive sources. The presence of surface water habitats secures an adequate environment for life and reproduction of amphibians.
LATORICA
The site is composed of diverse wetland habitat types – river itself, oxbow lakes, permanent and seasonal marshes, shrub dominated wetlands, floodplain forests and also human made wetlands like seasonally flooded grasslands, old excavations (gravel and soil pits) and canals. Most of the best preserved swamp and water communities are located along the Latorica river within the area bordered by levees. In the southern part, there are very valuable wet meadow communities with extensive swamp depressions inhabited by specific flora and fauna, including rare and threatened species. The occurrence of all wetland habitats depends on periodical floods before and during the vegetation season. Most important and valuable climax communities are soft and hardwood floodplain forests. In the direct vicinity of the river and its branches are distributed willow-poplar floodplain forests (Salicion albae, S. triandrae). Fragments of ash-elm-oak floodplain forests (Ulmenion minoris) with the richest species composition, and oak-hornbeam forests with Pannonian oak (Carpinion betuli) are preserved. Poplar plantations and Robinia pseudoacacia woods are sparsely distributed. Non-forest habitats are represented by reed and tall-sedge communities (Phragmiti-Magnocaricetea) and associations Schoenoplectum lacustris, Typhetum angustifoliae, Sparganietum erecti, Glycerietum maximae, Eleocharitetum palustris, Caricetum distichae, Caricetum gracilis, Caricetum vulpinae, Phalaridetum arundinacea, Caricetum ripario-acutiformis, Scirpetum sylvatici-Agrostietum stoloniferae etc. From the group of water and swamp plant communities there are presented associations Trapetum natantis, Nupharo lutei-Nymphaeetum albae, Ceratophylletum demersi (union Nymphaeion albae). One of the most important, characteristic and valuable communities is the association Hydrocharito-Stratiotetum. Others include unions Lemnion minoris, Utricularion vulgaris, Magnopotamion, Parvopotamion, Batrachion aquatilis, Oenanthion aquaticae, Sparganio-glycerion fluitans, Magnocaricion elatae, etc.
The site supports many breeding and migratory species of birds, is important for existence and reproduction of threatened fish, amphibians, mammals and a variety of invertebrates and represents a biodiversity hotspot in the Carpathian basin and Pannonian bioregion in transborder area.
The site provides number of important ecosystem services – livestock fodder, flood control, flood storage, recreational hunting and fishing and nutrient cycling.
In recent years the area has warmed significantly and there have been significant droughts and drops in groundwater levels due to climate change. Expansion of invasive alien species has been recorded in the site.
WETLANDS OF ORAVA BASIN
The wetlands of the Orava Basin are fragments of extensive original peat bogs and swamps and sub-montane river floodplains. The area consists of a diverse mosaic of representative, preserved, hydrologically and biologically very important and unique wetlands in a cross-border position from a continuous complex of original bog woodland through non-forest peat bogs and shrub marshes, to natural river floodplains. The wetlands of the Orava Basin are among the 3 most important peat bog areas in Slovakia.
Among the most important types of habitats, in terms of size and importance and occurrence in Slovakia, are mainly priority habitats of European importance active raised bogs, bog woodland. Klinské rašelinisko is one of the largest and most distinctive non-forest active raised bogs in Slovakia. Peatland sites Sosnina together with Hladovské and Suchohorské bory represent the largest occurrence of bog woodland in Slovakia.
Interesting and valuable is also the structure of the macrophyte vegetation of the Orava Reservoir, which depends on the water level in the reservoir (the water level varies considerably during the year). The vegetation represents submerged and floating macrophytes, littoral vegetation and bare bottom stands.
Almost all wetlands within the Ramsar Site are affected by intensive, or extensive agriculture, partly by peat

extraction or forestry, either directly on the site or in its wider vicinity. A considerable part of the vegetation of the Orava Basin is altered compared to the original state by human activities and economic use of the landscape. Much of the peatlands were destroyed as a result of conversion to agricultural land (mainly in 1960s - 1970s), peat extraction or flooding during the filling of the Orava reservoir (1953). Many localities are endangered as a result of extensive hydro-melioration and reclamation modifications, which also result in changes in the water regime.

TURIEC WETLANDS

The site is formed by mosaic of representative, well-preserved, hydrologically and biologically important and unique wetland types with substantial meaning for hydrological regime of the region. These wetlands provide irreplaceable space for rare and threatened species of plants and animals, occurrence of which is bound to wetlands. A well-developed continuum of lotic habitats from crenal through epirhithral and metarhithral to hyporhithral. Lentic habitats include patchily distributed oxbow lakes & marshes (either permanent or seasonal), springs, fens, sedge marshes, seasonally inundated grassland, shrub- and tree-dominated wetlands and peat pits. Principal vegetation types comprise following vegetation units (according to classification of Zurich-Montpellier school): Epilobietalia fleischeri, Lemnetea, Potametalia, Callitricho-Batrachietalia, Isoeto-Nanojuncetea, Phragmiti-Magnocaricetea, Montio-Cardaminetea, Scheuchzerio-Caricetea fuscae, Molinio-Arrhenatheretea, Salicetea purpureae, Alnetea glutinosae, Alnenion glutinoso-incanae, Bidentetea tripartiti, Convolvuletalia sepium, Petasito-Chaerophylletalia and Agrostietalia stoloniferae.

MORAVSKÉ LUHY

The site includes the Slovak section of the Morava River between Brodské and its confluence with the Danube as well as the most valuable part of the floodplain area near the Czech and Austrian borders, with a well preserved and developed complex of diverse wetlands – streams, canals, river branches, swamps, seasonal pools, wet grasslands, forests etc. Most of the site is included in the Záhorie Protected Landscape Area. Parts of the site have been designated as nature reserves.

PARÍŽSKÉ MOČIARE

The site includes permanent flowing water (a stream and an artificial canal), tall-herb (mainly reed) marshes, scrubby marshes, wet meadows and an artificial reservoir. From a phytogeographic point of view, the area belongs to the region of the Pannonian flora (Pannonicum), the district of the true Pannonian xerophytic flora (Eupannonicum). The main vegetation types are Phragmitetum communis, Sparganietum erecti, Lemnetum trisulcae, Lemnetum minoris, Polygonetum amphibii, Rorippo amphibiae Oenanthetum aquaticae and Scirpion maritimi. The character of the site is also related to a series of challenges consisting in the gradual overgrowth and grounding of the site caused by the regulation of the Paríž stream, changes in the water regime and management in the area.

POIPLIE

The Ipeľ floodplain is a long, flat and not so wide valley with few depressions. In these depressions there are oxbow lakes as well as shrub and alder bogs. There are small sand hills shaped by erosion and deflation in the eastern part of the site. Slope inclination is rather small in the valley. In early spring there are typical long-lasting floods that are the main source of water, especially for depressions.

The whole site is mostly dependent on regular floods, which determine the wetlands on the site. They usually occur in spring, but they may come also in other periods of the year as a result of high precipitation. The landscape was heavily altered by human interventions, most of the floodplain was drained and some river sections were altered and straightened.

The site has a warm, but typical continental climate with cold winters and warm, but humid summers.

ORAVA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

Indigenous riparian plant communities such as Alnetum incanae carpathicum, Petasiteum hybridi (the dominant one), fragments of Valeriano sambucifolii-Caricetum davalianae have great biological, sanitary and landscape-ecological importance. The riparian vegetation belt is nearly continuous and mostly of edge character. However, several patches of floodplain forest persisted here and show also well–developed shrub and herb layer. Riparian vegetation of the river belongs to the association Alnetum incanae dominated by Salix fragilis, Prunus padus subsp. padus, in shrub layer by Salix purpurea, Corylus avellana, Viburnum opulus, Frangula alnus, Rubus idaeus, Lonicera xylosteum, etc. The tree and shrub formations are interspersed with herbaceous communities such as Petasitetum hybridi together with the fragments of Valeriano sambucifolii-Caricetum davalianae in which some protected plant species occur (e.g. Dactylorhiza majalis and Trolius altissimus). The river islands are of special value from the scientific and conservation point of view as they represent the course of natural succession in alluvial habitats in various stages of the dynamic fluvial successional ecosystem. Riparian vegetation along the river tributaries belongs to the Alnetum incanae as well, but with greater proportion of shrub formations that are locally disturbed. The surrounding landscape is to various extent influenced by settlements and their infrastructure, agricultural and forestry activities.

SENNÉ FISHPONDS

The site belongs to the phytogeographic province of Pannonian flora (Pannonicum), a district of true Pannonian xerophytic flora (Eupannonicum) and a region of the Východoslovenská Nížina Lowland. Several habitat types are present in the site: canals, ponds (1 non farming pond and 28 fish farming ponds and tanks), wet meadows and pastures with a wide variety of plant communities. In the catchment of Čierna Voda River, pastures of the alliance Cynosurion cristati (mostly association Trifolio repentis Lolietum lotetosum tenuis) are dominant; some transition types that are dependent on groundwater level regime also occur. Communities of the alliance Loto Trifolion at the edge of open water with Orchis elegans are preserved as native vegetation

units. Mesic meadows are represented by the alliance Alopecurion pratensis, associations Alopecuretum pratensis and Festucetum pratensis. These are valuable because of the occurrence of Fritillaria meleagris and Leucojum aestivum. The dominant type of riparian vegetation is dense reed bed of alliance Phragmition with species as Phragmites australis, Typha latifolia, T. angustifolia, Glyceria maxima (it forms also distinct facies), Phalaroides arundinacea, Galium palustre, Lysimachia vulgaris, Schoenoplectus lacustris, Scutellaria galericulata, Lythrum salicaria, L. virgatum, Lycopus europaeus, etc. Important diagnostic species include Sparganium erectum, Sagittaria sagittifolia, Butomus umbellatus, Alisma plantago-aquatica. Phytocoenoses with dominant Typha laxmanii are valuable. The inner edge of the reed communities consists also of species of the alliance Oenanthion aquaticae. Floating macrophytes belong to the alliance Lemnion minoris, noteworthy species include Lemna minor, L. trisulca, Trapa natans, Utricularia vulgaris, Hottonia palustris, Najas marina, Ceratophyllum submersum, Hydrocharis morsus-ranae. A major part of the littoral tall sedge stands is of the alliance Caricion gracilis (homogeneous communities with dominant Carex gracilis and C. vulpina). In the transition zone Carex vesicaria, C. riparia, Phalaroides arundinacea, Sium latifolium and Iris pseudacorus also are found. The edges of these stands are inhabited by the communities of the alliance Phalaridion arundinaceae. Wet depressions are occupied by alluvial meadows and wetland shrubs with dominant Salix cinerea which belong to the alliance Salicion cinereae. Other shrub/tree species are represented by Salix alba, S. caprea, Populus nigra, P. tremula.
The site includes one large pond with adjacent seasonally-flooded grasslands and shrub swamps and fish-farming ponds and It is one of the most important breeding and resting sites of rare, endangered and vulnerable water birds in Europe and Slovakia, including globally threatened and migratory species.
ŠÚR
Extensive wetlands, which were widespread in the past along the S edge of the Malé Karpaty Mts., have been gradually fragmented and altered by agriculture and urbanization. The exception is Šúr wetland in the lowest part of the former complex. The site consists of four main habitats:
- “šúr” – fen alder forest – an isolated patch of seasonally flooded forest of the association Carici elongatae-Alnetum on fen peat; the patch is highly valuable as a unique example of native fen forest community (carr);
- swamp meadows and pastures that surround the fen alder forest, with considerable heterogeneity dependent on groundwater regime, duration of floods and way of management/use; particularly associations of the alliances Phragmition, Sparganio-Glycerion fluviatilis and Magnocaricion elatae that are involved in this habitat type which merges into wet meadows and pastures; some endangered plant species occur there;
- stagnant water (of artificial origin) represented by a fishpond, small ponds near the Biological Station and a gravel pit; important habitats for many amphibians and waterbirds;
- “Pannonian grove” – a complex of valuable remnants of thermophilous oak woodland dominated by Quercus robur and Q. cerris with fragments of forest-steppe communities on former pastures, an important habitat of rare and endangered species of plants (including e.g. halophilic), invertebrates, birds and game contrasting with mostly wetland area.
Landscape structure (approximately): forest 45%, meadows and pastures 16%, shrub and reed 16%, freshwater lakes 1%, arable land 20%, gardens 1%, others 1%.
TISA RIVER
The river and its floodplain has a lowland character. The water level fluctuates annually and depends on climate factors and on flood waters of the Tisza river flowing from .Romania, Ukraine and Hungary. The upper section is formed by original riverbed, the southern half of the section is transformed by human intervention made in in the 1980s. There is no direct connection to the former river arm system. The part of the site is formed by water-fringing reed beds and tall helophytes, annual river mud communities, moist or wet tall-herb and fern fringes and meadows. Part is affected by ruderal communities; improved grasslands and spreading invasive and non-native species. The Tisa River has important role in groundwater recharge, mitigates floods in parts of the wider alluvium in several countries, is important in terms of landscape, also nature protection, biological research, for recreational fishing, nutrient cycling, etc. Many rare and threatened central-European species of animals find suitable habitats there (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects) and are shared with neighboring countries.
Plant communities:
In its lowest parts, the potential floodplain vegetation is represented by floodplain forests and scrubs of the alliance Salicion albae and Salicion triandrae, with association Salici-Populetum and Salicetum triandrae. Communities of slow flowing and standing waters in the vicinity of the Site, mainly of the alliance Nymphaeion albae and association Trapetum natantis, are particularly important. The community of Polygonum amphibium has a special position in mesothrophic and oligothrophic water, as well as community of Potamogeton gramineus. Association Ceratophylletum demersi with Myriophyllum sp. and Potamogeton sp. joins these communities in deeper water. Association Hydrochari-Stratiotetum (alliance Hydrocharition) is not widespread and it indicates high level of overgrowing by the macrophytes and advanced stage of sedimentation. Communities of alliance Lemnion minoris occupy shallow water and these are connected with communities of Magnocaricion elatae, Phragmition communis and Hydrocharition. Characteristic is the association Lemnetum minoris. High degree of euthrophication indicates occurrence of rare association Lemno-Utricularietum vulgaris (alliance Utricularion vulgaris). Other plant communities are alliances Magnopotamion (association Elodeetum canadensis), Batrachion aquatilis and Litorellion uniflorae, and very important association Eleocharidetum acicularis. Human influence and increased concentration of nitrates indicates association Lythro-Pulicarietum vulgaris (alliance Elatino-Eleocharition). Richer but not stable is the association

Dichostylido michelianae-Gnaphalietum uliginosi. Very similar stands are occupied by ass. Cypero fusci-Juncetum bufonii. Many associations from the class Phragmiti-Magnocaricetea are connected with permanent water level. Association Schoenoplectetum lacustris occupies deeper water. In sections with shallower water are developed associations Typhetum angustifoliae and Phragmitetum communis. Wide-spread is the association Glycerietum maximae with Lysimachia vulgaris, Rumex hydrolapathum, Iris pseudacorus and Carex sp. Alliance Oenanthion aquaticae is represented with association Glycerio fluitantis-Oenanthetum aquaticae, alliance Magnocaricion elatae is represented with the association Caricetum elatae. Associations Ranunculetum scelerati and Bidenti-Polygonetum hydropiperis represent alliance Bidention tripartitae.

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
››› Ecological character of each Ramsar Site is monitored by the Ramsar Site manager (Administration of a protected area) from SNC SR.
These mechanisms primarily involve environmental assessment processes such as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) along with specific requirements related to the protection of Ramsar Sites and other protected areas. The EIA process in Slovakia is governed by the Environmental Impact Assessement Act No. 24/2006 Coll. and is aligned with EU Directive 2011/92/EU. The law requires the evaluation of potential environmental impacts, including those affecting protected areas. If a proposed project or activity (such as infrastructure development, land use change or other human activities) is located within or near a Ramsar Site or other protected areas, an EIA is mandatory. This process ensures that potential negative impacts on the ecological character of the site are identified early. As mentiond above, Ramsar Sites in Slovakia are often part of the Natura 2000 network, the EIA therefore assess the compatibility of the proposed project with the conservation objectives of these sites.
In summary, Slovakia has a robust system in place for identifying and responding to human-induced threats to the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, including through mandatory EIA processes, Appropriate Assessment procedures, and monitoring systems. These mechanisms ensure that the Administrative Authority is informed and can take action to protect the ecological character of wetlands ecosystem and Ramsar Sites.

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

7.2 Additional information

If “Yes” or “Some cases”, please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has **not** made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat
››› Part of the Danube Floodplains Ramsar Site is threatened by developers – Trimodal project of Construction of New port Harbour Park in Vlčie Hrdlo.
The proposed development includes a new basin equipped with 14 cranes and docking space for over 20 vessels. It would function as a trimodal port, integrated with railway connections and the R7 expressway. The site would also feature public amenities and short-term accommodation for staff.
The new port has been part of the city’s zoning plan for years, and the investor is expected to submit it for EIA in the near future. Public and the Bratislava City Council have previously voiced opposition to the project. The port would be constructed in the Ramsar Site, with the potential impacts on 90 ha of riparian forest and involved species.
Win-Port Invest has sought to allay concerns, assuring that a ‘buffer zone’ would separate the protected area from the port. But also argues that the site is already heavily industrialised, housing a refinery, a sewage plant, and an incinerator.
The EIA and a binding opinion from the city are two key approvals or statements must be obtained.

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?
››› Additional wetland inventory was done by the SNC SR within the project “The provision of the management of wetlands in Slovakia, raising the awareness of wetlands and capacity building” which was implemented within Operational Programme Environment between 2009 and 2016. In the last few years SNC SR prepared a geodatabase and layer of water bodies and wetlands for the purposes of planning the Common Agricultural Policy and together with detailed map and geodatabase of ecosystems of Slovakia including wetland ecosystems (article about map of ecosystems is available on: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17445647.2019.1689858). There is a general scientific database for the preparation of actual National Wetlands Inventory.
The impetus for the production of this map is the need of various stakeholders, especially nature protection bodies, forestry management, agricultural management and public administration, for better data on the distribution of ecosystems.

8.2 If your country has an NWI, has it been updated in the last decade [2014-2024]? {8.2}
☑ C1=Partially

8.2 Additional information
››› Every six years, wetland habitats are inventoried as part of the periodic reporting according to the Art. 17 of the Habitats Directive. Reports are based on monitoring of species and habitats of Community interest - data are continuously uploaded to the "KIMS" (Comprehensive Information and Monitoring System) available at www.biomonitoring.sk. Furthermore, additional monitoring of wetlands is conducted for projects and initiatives focused on the protection and management of wetlands, revitalization of river ecosystems, and other related objectives.
There is still a lack of comprehensive mapping of wetland habitats and species in Slovakia.

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?
☑ A=Regular intervals ≤ 6 years

8.3 Additional information
››› See 8.2

8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information publicly available? {8.4}
☑ C=Partially

8.4 Additional information

For example if “partially” or “planned” by when will the data/information be made public?
››› Partial results of monitoring of wetland habitats are available on-line in KIMS of the SNC SR, including interactive maps, on www.biomonitoring.sk. Map of Slovakia´s ecosystems are available on http://maps.sopsr.sk, where it is possible to find different types of wetland ecosystems in map legend according to the EUNIS ecosystems classification system. MoE publishes information on wetlands on its official website https://www.minzp.sk/oblasti/ochrana-prirody-krajiny/mokrade/. Accessible are also the results of the evaluation of capacity and monetary valuation of Slovakia´s ecosystems, including wetlands, to provide selected services in online publications “A Catalogue of Ecosystem Services in Slovakia” (available on: https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030465070 and “Value of ecosystems and their services in Slovakia (available on: http://www.sopsr.sk/files/hodnota-ekosys.pdf). These publications highlight important services provided by wetland ecosystems and their monetary value.

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

Maps of Slovakia´s ecocystems
Wetlands - webpage of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
Value of ecosystems and their services in Slovakia
Catalogue of Ecosystem Services in Slovakia

8.5 Please explain how the NWI data/information is maintained if at all? {8.3}
››› All data are continuously uploaded to the "KIMS" (Comprehensive Information and Monitoring System) at www.biomonitoring.sk

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

Comprehensive Information and Monitoring System

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

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

Note: The minimum information that should be provided is the total area of wetlands for each of the three major categories; "marine/coastal", "inland" and "human-made".
If the data on inventories are partial or not complete, use the available information to fill in the form, specifying if it is partial or not complete.
Guidance on information on national wetland extent can be consulted at: https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidance-on-information-on-national-wetland-extent.
››› Within ecosystem mapping 198,009.8 ha of habitats of wetland character have been identified. Natura 2000 habitat types (24 wetland habitat types of Community Interest) cover about 22,1605 ha (according to the report from 2019 submitted to the European Commission according to the Art. 17 of the Habitats Directive). The change in the extent of wetlands is unknown. Precise data about human-made wetlands are not available yet.

8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
L -- Permanent inland deltas	
M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls	452,16
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks	
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes	247,20
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	96,64
Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	
Tp -- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools	483,73
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils	483,35
U -- Non-forested peatlands	162,24

Va -- Alpine wetlands	
Vt -- Tundra wetlands	
W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands	
Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	
Xp -- Forested peatlands	46,12
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.	8,65
Zg -- Geothermal wetlands	
Zk(b) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	

8.6 Human-made wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
1 -- Aquaculture ponds.	22,19
2 -- Ponds	
3 -- Irrigated land	
4 -- Seasonally flooded agricultural land	
5 -- Salt exploitation sites	
6 -- Water storage areas	
7 -- Excavations	
8 -- Wastewater treatment areas	
9 -- Canals and drainage channels, ditches	
Zk(c) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	

8.7 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

8.7 Additional Information

››› Wetlands, especially those which are part of Natura 2000 network and protected sites are monitored by administrative units of SNC SR and are subject of restoration and maintenance projects. Status of some wetlands improved thanks to realization of projects, mainly LIFE projects and Norway grants aimed to restoration and
management of wetlands, e. g. parts of Ramsar Sites Latorica, RS Morava, RS Turiec wetlands, RS Rudava Valley, RS Wetlands of Orava Basin, RL Poiplie and also wetlands outside of Ramsar Sites.

Guidance on wetlands definition, change in ecological character and conservation of human-made wetlands has been developed for the regional nature conservation authorities.

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

8.8 Additional Information

››› Measures were implemented on several sites, e.g. local restoration actions on Rudava, Danube, Morava River, Klátovské rameno, but no systematic restoration has been executed which would bring the significant improvement in the state of the wetlands in Slovakia. It is difficult to evaluate the effects of local measures, also it is not clear, from what point of view it should be evaluated, since on the one hand, we improve e.g. hydromorphology, on the other hand, we are troubled by droughts and lack of water in the landscape. If we should be critical, it is difficult to measure and evaluate the impact of these local measures, compared to the consequences of the drought periods in last years. The overall situation has not improved significantly and maybe even worsened a little, although the local positive effects of restoration measures can be apparent in selected wetland sites, based on available pre- and post- implementation monitoring data.
Within the implementation of the new EU restoration policy (new EU Nature Restoration Law), Slovakia will have to prepare a national restoration plan (till September 2026), where wetlands and other water bodies will have to be covered as well.

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	☐

8.9 Additional Information

e.g explain others as referred to in (j)
››› Completion of the National Wetland Inventory requires sufficient funding from different resources, expert/human capacities and also cross-sectoral approach.
The main need is synchronizing the wetland inventory system with other monitoring systems, e.g. monitoring of species and habitats of European importance, which already works well.

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	☑

8.10 Additional Information

››› a) Resources
There is a need for increased financial and human resources to support wetland conservation projects, data collection, and monitoring/mapping activities. Additional funding can enhance the implementation of restoration and management plans for wetlands.
b) Relevant skills
Capacity building is essential to develop the expertise of professionals involved in wetland management. Training programs can improve skills in areas such as ecological assessment, and the application of National Wetland Inventory (NWI) data.
c) Data systems and management
Upgrading data collection systems and improving data management practices are necessary to ensure that NWI data is accurate, up-to-date, and easily accessible for stakeholders involved in decision-making processes.
d) Application of NWI information for decision-making
Integrating NWI data into national policies, climate action plans and biodiversity strategies is crucial. This ensures that wetland conservation is considered in broader environmental and developmental contexts.
f) Data interpretation and communication
Enhancing the ability to interpret NWI data and effectively communicate the importance of wetlands to policymakers, stakeholders, and the public is vital. This can lead to better-informed decisions and increased public support for wetland conservation.
g) Collaboration
Strengthening collaboration between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and local communities can improve the sharing of knowledge and resources, leading to more effective wetland management.
h) Others
Resource Mobilization: Seeking national and international funding opportunities, including grants from the European Union and environmental organizations, to support wetland initiatives.
Skill Development Programs: Organizing workshops, seminars, and training courses to build the capacity of professionals and stakeholders in wetland-related fields.
Data System Enhancement: Implementing modern technologies for data collection and management, such as remote sensing or GIS, to improve the quality and accessibility of NWI data.
Policy Integration: Ensuring that wetland conservation objectives are included in national development plans,

climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, and other relevant policies.
Communication Strategies: Developing outreach programs and educational materials to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands and the findings of the NWI among the general public and decision-makers.
Collaborative Networks: Establishing platforms for cooperation and information exchange among various stakeholders to promote unified efforts in wetland conservation.

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
››› National Programme for Wetland Management 2024 and Action Plan for Wetlands 2022-2024

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

National Programme for Wetland Management 2024 and Action Plan for Wetlands 2022-2024

9.2 Since COP14 have any amendments to existing legislation or policies been made to reflect commitments under the Convention on Wetlands? {9.2}
☑ A=Yes

9.2 Additional information
››› - amendments of the Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection
- amendments of the Act No. 364/2004 Coll. on Waters
- amendments of the Act No. 326/2005 Coll. on Forests
- generally valid definition of close-to-nature forest management and created conditions for its wider application in forests of Slovakia which has positive impact on wetlands themselves
- Order of the Goverment of the Slovak Republic No. 451/2023 Coll. establishing the National List of Sites of Community Importance – replacing previous 3 legal norms of the MoE establishing the national list and its amendment; the national list of SCIs now consists of 644 sites and is sufficient for all habitats and species of Community interest, including wetlands; this legal norm includes the map of each site and provides for data at the same structure (and actual cadaster data), the previous amendment (in 2022) new sites were added (adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic) including several section of rivers hosting fish species;
- Act No. 150/2019 Coll. on the Prevention and Management of the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Alien Species and on Change and Amendments to some Acts
- Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 449/2019 Coll. establishing the List of Invasive Alien Species of the Slovak Republic Concern- Decree of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 450/2019 laying down the conditions and methods for the eradication of invasive alien species
- Act No. 305/2018 Coll. on Protected Areas for Natural Accumulation of Waters
- Order of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 200/2018 Coll. determining Specifics on Handling with Polluting Matters, on the Essentials for the Fallback Procedure and on Proceeding in Management of Exceptional Worsening of Water Quality
- Act No. 216/2018 Coll. on Fishing
- Order of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 381/2018 Coll. by which the Act No. 216/2018 Coll. on Fishing is implemented
- Order of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 383/2018 Coll. on Technical Conditions for Proposing Fish Passages and Monitoring of Migration Passability of Fish Passages
- amendments of the Act No. 79/2015 Coll. on Wastes and relevant decrees

9.3 Do your country’s water governance and management systems recognize wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {9.3}
☑ A=Yes

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

9.4 Additional information
››› CEPA is a part of the The Water Plan of the Slovak Republic (2022-2027). Presentations for the general public were provided: presentations for children of primary school about the meaning of wetlands, with practical examples of wetlands restoration and a lecture for students of primary and high schools entitled

were presented by representatives of SNC SR.

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
››› Wetlands protection is partially covered also within the Slovak national adaptation strategy and action plan; new updated version is now under preparation and there it will be covered even more and better (as part of the nature-based solutions and ecosystem approaches).
The National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) was adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2018 and the role of wetlands in mitigating and adapting to climate change is highlighted in this document (as generally the whole ecosystems based approach). Wetland restoration, conservation and management are included also in the adopted Action Plan for implementation of the NAS (2021). The role of wetlands will be also solved in the new NAS, which is under development (to be adopted in 2025).
Analysis of methodologies and guidelines relevant for the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories – part Wetlands and possibilities for their use in national circumstances for inventory of GHG emissions are now made. The principles of this policy were included also in the Prioritized Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 Network in the Slovak Republic pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework and updated PAF for period 2021 – 2027 (https://www.minzp.sk/natura2000/prioritny-akcny-ramec-financovania-natura-2000-slovenskej-republike/).
The principles of this policy were included in Water Management Plan of the Slovak Republic (https://www.minzp.sk/voda/koncepcne-aplanovacie-dokumenty/vodny-plan-slovenska-aktualizacia-2015.html) and in Action Plan to address the Consequences of Drought and Water Scarcity (https://www.minzp.sk/voda/koncepcne-aplanovacie-dokumenty/h2odnota-je-voda-akcny-plan-rieseniedosledkov-sucha-nedostatku-vody.html).
In the Updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was formulated a measure to develop strategic framework for priority setting in the ecosystem restoration and to prepare and implement wetland and river ecosystem restoration program as a contribution to climate change mitigation.
The Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute builds different tools (data, trends, maps, scenarios) that can help also in planning of mitigation and adaptation to climate change in wetlands.
In addition, the Strategy of Environmental Policy of the Slovak Republic until 2030 (2019) emphasizes the ecosystem based solutions as mitigation and adaptation tools and contains rainwater harvesting and water reusing targets and measures.
PAF for period 2021 – 2027:
https://www.minzp.sk/natura2000/prioritny-akcny-ramec-financovania-natura-2000-slovenskej-republike/
Methodological guidelines for implementation support of green infrastructure solutions: Analysis of barriers, implementation support good practices and recommendations for public policies:
https://metodiky.sazp.sk/Metodika_3_Zelena_infrastruktura/Definitiva_Metodicke_usmernenie.pdf.
Methodological guideline of practices for rivers revitalization, 2023 https://www.minzp.sk/files/metodicka-prirucka-postupov-revitalizacie-vodnych-tokov.pdf.

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

Methodological guidelines for implementation support of green infrastructure solutions: Analysis of barriers, implementation support good practices and recommendations for public policies:

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
››› Wetlands protection as part of the green infrastructure is included in the baseline for receiving the direct payments within the first pillar of the EU CAP. Payments for their protection partially covered within the agri-environmental schemes for grasslands protection (wet meadows) of the Strategic plan of Common Agriculture Policy SR 2023-2027. Maintenance and improvement of wetland habitats in local wetlands is partly supported as a follow-up of measures of the RDP 2014 – 2020:
- Agri-environmental-climate measures: Conservation of habitats of natural and semi-natural grasslands;
- Agri-environmental-climate measures: support of waterlogged arable soils
- Payments for areas with natural or other special constraints: Areas affected by special constraints.
Above mentioned apply when wetland sites are agriculturally used (are included in Land Parcel Identification System – LPIS). - Partly also Forest-environmental measures
Strategic Plan within the Common Agricultural Policy SR 2023 – 2027: https://www.mpsr.sk/europska-komisia-schvalila-slovensky-strategicky-plan-spolocnej-polnohospodarskej-politiky-na-roky-2023-2027/462---18431
Comparison of Strategic Plans within the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023 – 2027: Income support:
https://www.mpsr.sk/porovnanie-strategickych-planov-spp-na-roky-2023-2027-podpora-prijmu/462---18439/

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

Strategic Plan within the Common Agricultural Policy SR 2023 – 2027

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
››› During the years 2023-2024, in cooperation with the Paying Agency and the State Nature Conservancy of the SR, localities in the SR with occurrence of wetlands and peatlands were identified, which were projected onto digital layers and inserted into the GSAA application. At the same time, the wording of the GAEC 2 – protection of wetlands and peatlands was prepared, which was consulted and agreed with the relevant bodies of the European Commission. In terms of aquaculture, quite extensive requirements for the protection and management of wetlands, invasive species, etc. have been established under the Fisheries Operational Programme.

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
››› Several initiatives have been focused on these areas, often within the broader context of nature conservation, climate change adaptation, and sustainable land use. These research efforts have contributed to the development of policies and strategies for better managing wetlands and integrating them into climate and agriculture-related frameworks.
Several research projects under the European Union's Horizon Europe program have focused on these issues, often involving collaboration between Slovak research institutions, NGOs and European partners. These projects have examined how agricultural landscapes can be better integrated with wetland conservation efforts to improve biodiversity and ecosystem services.
Research results have contributed to the development of national policies and plans for wetland conservation, such as the Slovak National Biodiversity Strategy and the National Adaptation Strategy for Climate Change. These documents now include measures for protecting wetland ecosystems, improving agricultural practices, and integrating wetland services into climate change strategies.
Wetlands4Climate (2021–2023):
Evaluating the effectiveness of wetland restoration in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainable agriculture practices around wetlands, and assessing the economic value of wetland ecosystem services.
Slovakia has contributed to the assessment of peatland restoration, the implementation of best management practices in agricultural zones adjacent to wetlands, and the development of policy recommendations for integrating wetland services into national climate strategies
NATURA (Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilience) (2021–2025)
This project examines how nature-based solutions (such as wetlands) can be utilized for climate adaptation. It specifically looks at how wetlands help to manage water quality, reduce flood risks, and maintain agricultural productivity in the face of climate change.
Wetland Restoration and Agriculture (ongoing since 2021)
This project focuses on restoring wetland ecosystems affected by agricultural practices, particularly in floodplains and peatlands. The project looks at the impacts of agricultural drainage, land use changes, and intensification on wetland ecosystems, and how to mitigate these impacts through ecologically sustainable farming practices. The project includes restoring areas like the RS Latorica (part of the Tisa river basin), where research has been conducted on wetland hydrology, species diversity, and the role of wetlands in regulating agricultural water flows and preventing soil erosion.
The Valuation of Wetland Ecosystem Services (ongoing):
Research has been conducted by the Slovak Academy of Sciences and different universities to assess the economic and social value of ecosystem services provided by wetlands. These services include water purification, flood regulation, biodiversity preservation, and carbon storage. The study evaluates the financial

and social benefits of wetland ecosystems and develops methods for integrating these values into national policy-making and land-use planning. Research has been particularly focused on wetland areas in the Tatra Mountains and the Danube River Basin, where wetland conservation is crucial for maintaining biodiversity and regulating water resources for agriculture.
the National Forestry Programme (2022-2030) - includes measures for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity of the rivers and lakes, management of small watercourses, mitigation of climate change impact and drought, maintenance and improvement of ecosystem services of forests,
All forests are under valid ten-year forest management plans, which are prepared by third party certified experts and funded by the government. Plans are registered with an official body and publicly available.
Research activities also preceded the creation of Slovakia's CAP 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. Wetlands protection is partially (insufficiently) covered also by the CAP payments and measures, either as part of the direct payments conditionalities or by separated measures linked especially to wetlands conservation.
The Catalogue of Selected Adaptation Measures for Adverse Impacts of the Climate Change Related to Land Use was published by the Slovak Environment Agency in 2018 (https://www.sazp.sk/app/cmsFile.php?disposition=i&ID=814).
All the relevant wetland areas were considered during the creation of the new Water Policy Concept for 2030, with a perspective toward 2050, in which representatives from scientific and professional institutions collaborated

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}
☑ D=Planned

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
››› Conservation of small wetlands is anchored in the Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection as amended in the provisions on wetlands conservation and provisions on general landscape protection as “important landscape element”. Small wetlands are also included in the national network of protected areas and in the national spatial planning tool – the Territorial System of Ecological Stability, documents of which are developed/updated at the regional and local levels. In 2022 the Slovak Environment Agency successfully implemented the project “Processing of documents of Regional Territorial System of Ecological Stability (RUSES) for the purpose of creating a basis for the regulation of design and building of green infrastructure (RUSES II)”. Wetlands (including small wetlands) occurring in the landscape are included in the positive elements of RUSES and part of the RUSES skeleton. Within the project, 50 documentations of Regional Territorial System of Ecological Stability of selected 50 districts of the Slovak Republic were approved. The proposed management measures will ensure their conservation. In 2022, international INTERREG project proposal Tiny-ties was developed in cooperation with partners from different organizations in Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary and Austria. The role of Slovakia was envisaged mainly in relation to the transfer of project results and guidelines and other deliverables among the Carpathian countries and regions beyond the project area through the medium of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, Carpathian Network of Protected Areas and Carpathian Wetland Initiative and findings into national policies, documents and procedures and also in relation to providing and adopting recommendations for protection, restoration and management of wetlands. SNC SR (CWI) collaborated on the project submission but project has not been approved.

Target 10
The traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

10.1 Do you have national legislation or equivalent on indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels in wetland management, and/or Site management?
☑ C1= Partially

10.1 Additional Information
››› The guidelines for local communities on green (and blue) infrastructure and its importance for flood prevention are under development within a project of the Slovak Environment Agency (Program on the Adverse impact of Climate Change and the Possibilities of Proactive Adaptation – Action Plan to solve the Consequences of Drought and Water Scarcity) and are also included in the Catalogue of Selected Adaptation

Measures for Adverse Impacts of Climate Change in Relation to Land Use (published by Slovak Environment Agency, presented in 2018 and 2019 to public on thematic focused seminars). As part of the Regional Territorial System of Ecological Stability (RUSES) documentation (processed for all districts of the Slovak Republic), management measures have been prepared for wetlands to ensure their protection. Through the RUSES documentation, the processors of strategic documentation of cities and municipalities, as well as local residents are informed about the occurrence of wetlands and their protection. The recommendations from the proposed part of RUSES are becoming one of the tools for the local development. The new issue of the translated handbook Rivers by Design - A guide for planners, developers, architects and landscape architects on maximising the benefits of river restoration was prepared by SNC SR in 2020 and is available online (http://www.sopsr.sk/web/?cl=59). Cooperation with indigenous people and local stakeholders is always an essential part of all LIFE projects.

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

Rivers by Design

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}
☑ B=No

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}
☑ B=No

10.5 Have traditional knowledge and management practices relevant to the wise use of wetlands been documented and their application encouraged {10.3}
☑ B=No

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
››› Important studies were published in 2019 and 2020 on valuation of ecosystem services, which are more general, but include wetland ecosystems: Medely, P., Černecký, J (eds.). 2020. A Catalogue of Ecosystem Services in Slovakia (available on: https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030465070); Černecký, J., Gajdoš, P., Špulerová., J., Halada, Ľ., Mederly, P., Ulrych, L., Ďuricová, V., Švajda, J., Černecká, Ľ., Andráš., P.,Rybanič., R. 2020. Ecosystems in Slovakia. In: Journal of Maps, 16(2), 28–35. (available on: https://doi.org/10.1080/17445647.2019.1689858). Development of the Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit was included in the work package (coordinated by the SNC SR) of the project “Building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and socio-economic development” (Centralparks) (2019-2022).

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

https://www.sopsr.sk/files/hodnota-ekosys.pdf

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

11.2 Additional information
››› Implementation of EU Water Framework Directive in different projects and the Water Management Plan of Slovakia. Several projects have been implemented with topics on water security and wetland policy. Groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems are part of the groundwater bodies evaluation carried out by the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute and SNC SR.

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

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
››› Several partners participated in the LIFE-IP NATURA 2000 SVK project „Role of the Natura 2000 network and management of some prioritized habitats in the integrated landscape protection of the Slovak Republic“ (2020 – 2030, LIFE Integrated Projects). The main goal of the project is to improve the condition of selected sites of the Natura 2000 network (some of them overlapped with Ramsar Sites) through active management and implementation of the "Prioritized Action Framework" (PAF). The project also evaluate the socio-economic benefits and ecosystem services of Natura 2000 and improve awareness and public acceptance of Natura 2000 among stakeholders and general public, including awareness on ecosystem services provided by Natura 2000.
Socio-economic values are integrated in the ongoing LIVING RIVERS project „Implementation of river basin management plan in Slovakia“ (2022 – 2030, LIFE Integrated projects 2020 Environment). The main objective of this project is the preparation and implementation of restoration or mitigation measures to achieve good ecological status (GES) or good / maximum ecological potential (GEP / MEP) on selected (pilot) rivers – the Danube, Hron and Belá. Actions will include also media outputs - press articles, radio and TV broadcasts, presentations for schools and public, conferences, popularization and scientific articles, etc. Capacity building activities and replication of best practice methods will be also important part of this action.

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

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
››› Within the implementation of the new EU restoration policy (new EU Nature Restoration Law), Slovakia will have to prepare a national restoration plan (till September 2026), where wetlands and other water bodies will have to be covered as well.

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
››› Within the new national restoration plan priority wetland types, as well as other habitats and sites will be identified.

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

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

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

Human-made			

12.3 Additional information

Explain/clarify the data/statistics presented in the table above
››› In 2023 project LIFE21-IPE-SK-LIFE Living Rivers -101069837 has been approved.
The project brings integrated approach to the protection of rivers, native fish species and target habitats and will contribute to the Implementation of the river basin management plan in selected river sub-basins in Slovakia.
The project is mainly focused on the implementation of the Water Plan of Slovakia within the Danube, Hron, Ipeľ and Belá river basins. The goal is to ensure good ecological status / good ecological potential (GES / GEP) of waters in 10 water bodies and thus improve a total of 344 km of water courses through hydromorphological measures, appropriate care of protected areas, restoration of floodplain forests and non-forest habitats and ensuring the removal of barriers to migration fish and strengthening their populations.
Project Ecohydrological Restoration of Peat Bogs in the Carpathians, co-financed by Norway grants, realized by Daphne in cooperation with the State Nature Conservancy and NINA was focused on restoration of 12 peat bog sites in Slovakia with the aim of stopping their degradation by implementing well-targeted hydrological and management measures on an area of 352 ha.
Several Projects led by BROZ aimed to the Restoration of the Danube River Branch were implemented, including the revitalization of side branches, such as the Karloveské and Devínske branches, aiming to enhance water flow, biodiversity, and habitats for birds and fish. This initiative is part of broader efforts to restore the Inner Danube Delta area. BROZ organized successful campaign to raise funds to save 42 ha of wetlands in agricultural land. The land is adjacent to a Natura 2000 site and was originally part of a large wetland system – Čiližské močiare. However, the area currently does not fall under any protection, and therefore, farming is not restricted in any way. Reed-sedge swamps, home to Central European root vole (Microtus oeconomus mehelyi), are located near the future wetland. Wetlands in an agricultural landscape are home to many amphibians all year round, many birds that come to hunt – e.g. herons, white storks, rare black storks, and others; as well as many dragonflies, and aquatic invertebrates, a foundation of the habitat’s food chain. Water dependent fauna and flora biotopes were restored in Klátovské rameno too.
For more information see 2.5

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

Save the wetland campaing

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}
☑ A=Yes

12.4 Additional Information

If “yes” or “partially”, please indicate the progress in implementation
››› Importance of peatlands in climate adaptation and mitigation was highlighted in the updated Wetland Management Programme in Slovakia to 2024 and Action Plan for Wetlands 2022-2024 and updated NAS and is included in the project outline for EUKI funding. The project idea includes activities for improved policy and legislative instruments, wise use of peatlands, capacity building and strengthened international cooperation and networking.
Peatlands management and restoration is included in the LIFE Integrated project Role of the Natura 2000 network and management of some prioritized habitats in the integrated landscape protection of the Slovak Republic, approved in 2020.
Implemented also within the Project Ecohydrological restoration of peatlands in the Carpathians.

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

https://obnovaraselinisk.sopsr.sk/o-projekte/

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

››› Slovakia has taken comprehensive actions across multiple sectors to enhance the sustainability of wetlands:

a) Energy

Environmental regulations require energy projects to undergo Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) to mitigate adverse effects on wetlands. Renewable energy initiatives are promoted to reduce ecological footprints.

b) Mining

Strict mining laws and EIAs are in place to prevent degradation of wetlands from extractive activities.

c) Agriculture

Sustainable agricultural practices are encouraged to reduce runoff and pollution.

d) Tourism

Eco-tourism is promoted, to balance economic benefits with conservation.

e) Urban Development

Urban planning policies include the protection of wetlands.

f) Infrastructure

Infrastructure projects are subject to EIAs. Routes for roads and pipelines are planned to avoid wetlands when possible, and mitigation measures are implemented if impacts are unavoidable.

g) Industry

Industrial activities are regulated to control emissions and effluents that could affect wetlands. Compliance with wastewater treatment standards is strictly enforced.

h) Forestry

Sustainable forest management practices are implemented to protect wetland areas within forests.

i) Aquaculture

Sustainable methods are promoted to prevent pollution and invasive species introduction.

j) Fisheries

Conservation programs aim to maintain the ecological balance of wetland habitats.

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

››› Slovakia applies Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) practices in accordance with national legislation and European Union directives. The primary legal framework for SEA in Slovakia is established by Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on Environmental Impact Assessment. It mandates that all relevant policies, programmes, and plans undergo an SEA if they may have significant environmental effects, including impacts on wetlands.

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
››› Slovakia has a legal requirement to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for development projects that may impact wetlands. This requirement is established through national legislation and is aligned with European Union directives. This is the primary law governing the EIA process in Slovakia is Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on Environmental Impact Assessment. The Act mandates that projects likely to have significant environmental effects undergo an EIA before they can be approved.

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.
››› The Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) was initiated by Slovakia as a Contracting Party to the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) and the Ramsar Convention and it includes 7 Carpathian countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine) and partners, including intergovernmental organisations and NGOs. It was endorsed by the Ramsar Standing Committee in 2009 and it operates as the Ramsar Regional Initiative and in the same time as a part of the work programme of the Carpathian Convention. The framework for cooperation between secretariats of the Carpathian and Ramsar Convention provides the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in December 2006. The CWI is coordinated by the SNC SR

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

CWI webpage

15.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {15.2}
☑ A=Yes

15.2 Additional information

If “yes”, please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s).
››› CWI supported the estabilishment the new Danube WILDisland Regional Ramsar Initiative (ongoing on-line communication and several face-to face meeting was held in 2022-2024). Common projects and activities are planned .

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
››› The Sectoral Strategy for Environmental Education, Training and Awareness of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic in 2015 and wetland CEPA is included. The wetland CEPA programme for the Carpathian Wetland Initiative is under development.

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

››› 6 centres

b) at other wetlands

☑ E=# centres

››› 2 centres

16.2 Additional information

››› a) Education/information centres were established and supported in the following Ramsar Sites: Wetlands of Orava Basin, Poiplie, Turiec Wetlands, Domica, Danube Floodplains and Senné Fishponds. In addition educational trails were established in some Ramsar Sites (e.g. Wetlands of Orava Basin, Šúr, Morava Floodplains, Senné Fishponds, Poiplie, Caves of Demänovská dolina Valley). Establishment of the eco-centre with permanent interactive exhibit focused on the nature of the Danube Floodplains in the restored old manor house and support of sustainable tourism is the aim of the cross-border project implemented within the INTERREG V A Slovak Republic – Austria programme (Ecoregion SKAT, 2020 2022). The project is implemented by SNC SR, Bratislava self-governing region, DAPHNE – Institute of Applied Ecology, as well as partners from Austria (Marchfeld Region, National Parks Donau-Auen and Neusiedler See Seewinkel.
b) The Carpathian Wetland Centre was established in Banská Bystrica for general use on the Carpathian level. In 2018 was established by the SNC SR the visitor centre near the mountain lake Morské oko in Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area. Educational sites focused on wetlands are operating e.g. near Hrhovské rybníky Fishponds (Slovak Karst National Park) or in Slovenský raj National Park (“On the wings of a dragonfly”). Near wetland sites can be found also educational trails (e.g. Wetlands of the Hnilec River, Klátovské rameno) and boards. Environmental education centre of the Slovak Environment Agency in Dropie provides educational programs related to the conservation of wetlands and birds. Participants are trained to be familiar with importance and vulnerability of wetland habitats by experience form.

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

››› Public participation is included in the national legislation and guidelines for decision making processes and for management planning of protected sites and sites of international importance. Especially management plans for protected areas (including Ramsar sites and Natura 2000 sites) are discussed with stakeholders before approval. This principle is included also in the CAP and in the Water Plan of the Slovak Republic. Stakeholders have been involved in all relevant projects implemented during the last triennium

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

☑ A=Yes

16.4 Additional information

››› a) The Slovak Ramsar Committee is composed of representatives of nature conservation sector, water management sector, agriculture, forestry and rural development sector, transport and construction sector, tourism, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, specialists, universities, academic institutions and NGOs. National Focal Points for STRP and CEPA are members, as well as national delegate to Association Wetlands International.
b) there is ongoing electronic communication and consultation between members related to wetlands conservation issues and current actions and project. One face to face meeting was held in June 2023 during the international meeting with the Czech Ramsar Committee.
c) The Slovak Ramsar Committee is an advisory body of minister of environment on implementation of the Ramsar Convention. The current composition and mission includes support of implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA).

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

☑ Y=Not Relevant

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

16.6 Additional information

››› a) list and group e-mail addresses exist of Ramsar Site managers and SNC SR staff members responsible for water management; they are contacted and consulted in relevant issues by the SNC SR Headquarters or the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic.
b) Regular meetings and consultations of relevant MEA national focal points are organized by the Directorate for Nature, Biodiversity and Landscape Protection of MoE and by SNC SR.
c) Relevant ministries, departments and agencies are represented in the national Working Group on Biodiversity, also in SK-MAES (the Slovak Working Group on Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services) and participate in meetings and consultation processes; the procedure of inter-sectoral consultations is based in the rules for commenting the documents submitted to the Government. Representatives of the relevant departments and agencies are members of working groups and expert groups and they collaborated in preparation of the 3rd Water Management Plan of the SR (2022-2027), the National Water Policy Concept in Slovakia and NBSAP.

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
››› In occasion of WWD organizations over the country annually conducted educational campaigns through social media and local events to emphasize wetlands' role in biodiversity, climate adaptation, and water resources.
SNC SR with its administrations of protected landscape areas, Regional Nature Conservation Centre and the Slovak Caves Administration and also National Parks Administrations annually organize activities in occasion of the World Wetlands Day. Events reflected themes Wetlands action for people and nature, Wetland restoration, Wetlands and human wellbeing.
Environmental education programs (such as When a wetland says, Water and wetlands, Wetlands and Ramsar sites, Wetlands – disaster risk prevention, Urban Wetlands, Wetlands and the climate change, Wetlands, the cornerstone of biodiversity) for pupils in kindergartens, elementary schools and secondary school students; various lectures, talks on wetlands of national and international importance for public; film shows; exhibitions of photographs and wetland plants and animals (e.g. Wetlands, the treasures of nature; Wetlands of Medzibodrožie; Wetlands of Horná Orava; Wetland and butterflies); educational competitions such as Let's get to know amphibians, Stork; excursions for students and public in Ramsar Sites; seminars for teachers; senior citizens' discussions; creative workshops; project day on the theme Water in the Landscape and games aimed at recognizing wetland ecosystems and highlighting their values.
The Slovak Caves Administration organizes an event in the form of a short lecture combined with a workshop entitled Wetland Restoration. The event was focused on learning about the biodiversity of wetland habitats and the importance of their restoration. In collaboration with the MoE, the Danube Day was held, showcasing wetland ecosystems, their conservation, significance, and Ramsar sites (Dunajské luhy, Morava Floodplain, Šúr, Parížske močiare). The event features participation from MoE, affiliated organizations (SVP), the Bratislava Self-Governing Region (BSK), and SNC SR - PLA Záhorie and PLA Danube Floodplains. In 2023, the event attracted 150 participants..
Slovak Environment Agency organized special events at schools and kindergartens with topics on wetlands; virtual educational path Living Lab Dropie with the topic of wetlands, bioremediation and water retention in the landscape; videowall Ecocreator – a strategic game on water retention, agriculture in protected areas, increasing biodiversity and reducing temperature in cities.
Slovak non-governmental organizations such as BROZ, SOS/BirdLife Slovakia, and WWF Slovakia also organized various activities for World Wetlands Day (WWD) in the last triennium. These initiatives focused on raising awareness on wetland conservation and their importance. In 2022 WWF Slovakia participated in the campaign "Wetlands Action for People and Nature," emphasizing the need to invest in wetland conservation and restoration. The organization contributed to the Living Danube Partnership, which supports the restoration of wetlands and river ecosystems in the Danube Basin, including Slovakia. The BROZ also held informational lectures and volunteer events highlighting the significance of wetlands in the region and practical restoration efforts. During European Researchers' Night 2023 projects focused on Klátovské rameno and Dunajské Luhy restoration have been promoted by SWME and Waterworks construction, state enterprise.

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
››› Special programmes for different target groups were implemented e.g. by the SNC SR (Educational Programme Wetlands and Ramsar Sites) and the Slovak Environment Agency. Different events (World Water Day, World Rivers Day, The Danube Day, European Birds Day, World Migratory Birds Day, World Fish Migration Day, World Otters Day, World Environment Day, Earth Day, field camps, conferences) are used to highlight the themes. The activities include press releases, posters, exhibitions, lectures, competitions, excursions, film shows, education programmes for school children and teachers, workshops and seminars.
Daphne – Institute of Applied Ecology realized some educational programs for schools to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands. As part of the project Ecohydrological Restoration of Peat Bogs in the Carpathians are also included seminars for experts and stakeholders and educational activities with schools, such as excursions to peat bogs.
SNC SR, the Malá Fatra National Park Administration, the Carpathian Wetland Initiative, in co-operation with Považská Gallery of Arts in Žilina and under the auspices of the MoE organized in 2023 the 16th edition of the EKOPLAGÁT (ECOPOSTER) triennial the international exhibition and contest of posters on the topics of conservation of nature and environment, including the themes on the importance of water, wetlands and their ecosystem services; 246 posters from 145 authors and one international organization, from 25 countries were installed. The exhibition was supported also by the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) and the best poster on wetlands was awarded. More information: http://ekoplagat.sopsr.sk/en/home/.
The Slovak Water Management Enterprise co-organized celebrations as part of the International Day of the Danube for the public, accompanied by educational activities and navigation on the Danube River. Within the

World Water Day presentations for students and teachers of primary and high schools were done, working seminar for mayors of cities and municipalities and cleaning of water courses with the participation of the general public.
Huge campaigned on wetlands was realized during the project ACC04PO5 Klátovské rameno, where many pupils and children's from kindergartens and primary and also secondary schools have attended inside activity called Make your own wetland and outdoor activity called Search your wetland, accompanied by short focused presentations and quiz on Klátovské arm fauna and flora.
The Slovak Museum of Nature Protection and Speleology organized different lectures and exhibitions (Wetlands – treasures of nature, World Heritage Sites and Ramsar Site, Domica – unique cave in the Slovak Karst, Eco-photography, Show caves and important caves of Slovakia, Plants of Community importance, Nature conservation and amphibians around us, Slovak karst and caves, Ecosystems and their relationships, Natura 2000, Protected habitats of Liptov region, Protected species of Liptov region, Special Protection Areas, Water – cradle of life and source of health, Cave as a habitat of Community importance, Cave ecosystems, Myths and legends on caves, rivers, mountain lakes…), excursions, etc.
The Slovak Mining Museum provides regular and also occasional environmental based programs, workshops and events which partially deal with wetlands ("Eco-workshop", Earth Day, etc.).
The Slovak Water Management Enterprise co-organized celebrations as part of the International Day of the Danube for the public, accompanied by educational activities and navigation on the Danube River. Within the World Water Day presentations for students and teachers of primary and high schools were done, working seminar for mayors of cities and municipalities and cleaning of water courses with the participation of the general public.
Lectures and exhibitions, children art competitions, youth camps, installation of educational boards, excursions, school programmes (including transborder), TV shots and radio broadcasting, etc. were organized also by NGOs.

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}
☑ C=Partially

16.9 Additional Information
››› The basic information on wetlands and Ramsar sites are available at the web site of the SNC SR www.sopsr.sk and of the MoE https://www.minzp.sk/ochrana-prirody/medzinarodne-dohovory/uzemia-medzinarodneho vyznamu/. SNC SR publishes (electronically) a magazine Protected Areas of Slovakia, scientific journal Ochrana prírody (Nature Conservation), in which contributions on wetland habitats and species conservation, management, research and monitoring were published (available at http://www.sopsr.sk/web/?cl=52 , http://www.sopsr.sk/web/?cl=55)

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

Knowledge quiz - Ramsar sites in Slovakia

List of Ramsar wetlands in Slovakia

Map of Slovakia's internationally important wetlands

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}
☑ B=No

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}
☑ Y=Not Relevant

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.
››› Financial support for coordination of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative, including voluntary contribution by the MoE.

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}
☑ C=Partially

18.1 Additional information
››› The focal points of relevant MEAs are employees of the MoE and/or SNC SR. In some cases the same person is the focal point for more environmental international agreements. Some specialists are members of several national committees for different conventions. Coordination meetings of these NFPs have been organized and information exchange provided. Also in the phase of preparation of different documents, including this report, several focal points are involved

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

18.2 Additional information
››› Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic provides consultation and communication through the Permanent Mission of SR in Geneva, The Permanent Representative of SR in FAO and WFP in Rome, etc. Department for UN and International Organizations within the UN System (UNEP, FAO, WFP), Department for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (Development Agenda), Second Department of European Policies (European Environmental Policy), Department for International Economic Organisation (UNECE, OECD), are contact points ensuring cooperation with other relevant authorities and international organizations.

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
››› Within the established international Danube River Network of Protected Areas (DANUBEPARKS) the transnational projects have been developed and implemented where two Slovak Ramsar Sites participate Danube Floodplains (Danube Floodplains Protected Landscape Area) and Morava River Floodplains (Záhorie Protected Landscape Area). The Trilateral Ramsar Platform for the transborder site Floodplains of the Morava Dyje-Danube Confluence (SK-CZ-AT) supports knowledge sharing and training. Other transborder Ramsar Sites include Domica – Baradla Cave System (SK-HU), Upper Tisza Valley (SK-HU), Ipoly Valley – Poiplie (HU-SK). Regular cooperation with Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic in knowledge sharing and preparation and implementation of training courses within the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (coordinated by the SNC SR) is another example. Within the cooperation of the SNC SR/ the Slovak Caves Administration with Aggtelek National Park Directorate in Hungary regular coordination of management and collaboration in research, protection and promotion of transborder Domica – Baradla Ramsar Site and hydrological system is organized on long-term basis (cooperation agreement signed). Within the Interreg SK-HU crossborder project was coordinated research, infrastructure improvement and promotion activities connected with planned subterranean speleotherapy in both parts of the cave system. Publication on curative potential of the subterranean Domica– Baradla cave system. At the national level, an internet platform ewobox.sk was created for the needs of education and training, which helps to mediate knowledge in the field of education for the protection of wetlands.

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

☑ A=Yes

18.5 Additional information

››› Following Ramsar sites have been designated for the List of Transboundary Ramsar Sites:
Floodplains of the Morava-Dyje-Danube Confluence – the Trilateral Ramsar Platform was established in 1995 and Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Waters of the Republic of Austria, the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic was signed in 2001. Trilateral Ramsar Site Floodplains of Morava-Dyje Danube Confluence was officially declared at the 8th meeting of the Trilateral Ramsar Platform in November 2007.
Poiplie – in 2007, to fulfil the commitments made by the Slovak Republic and Hungary in their national reports submitted to the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention, both countries designated the two sites the Ipoly Valley and Poiplie, already listed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance, as transboundary sites, in order to facilitate harmonising the management of this shared wetland.
Upper Tisza Valley – bilateral Ramsar site situated in the south-eastern Slovakia and north-eastern Hungary and includes a part of the Tisa River and its floodplain in both countries and its continuation lies also in Ukraine. Domica-Baradla Cave System is subterranean wetland representing a part of the 25 km long karst hydrological system shared with Hungary.
There is bilateral co-operation on transboundary rivers with all neighbouring countries through (bilateral) transboundary commissions. On multilateral level, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) of the Danube River Protection Convention deals with wetland conservation, management and restoration. Slovakia is a member of this convention.
Following additional Ramsar sites are situated along the state borders:
Wetlands of Orava basin – a diverse mosaic of wetland communities, including riverine, forested peatland, wet meadows, non-forested shrub, swamp forests, fens, open bogs, and an artificial water reservoir. The site is situated in northern Slovakia, close to the state borders with Poland;
Danube floodplains – a section of the Danube River and its floodplain along the Austrian and Hungarian borders;
Latorica – the river flowing to Slovakia from Ukraine (Prytysianskyi Landscape Park);
Other shared wetlands and river basins include: The Slaná River – flowing to Hungary; Dunajec River – common activities of Slovak-Polish transborder Pieniny National Park Administrations (monitoring, surveys).

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

››› Effective cooperative management is in place in the Floodplains of Morava-Dyje-Danube Confluence Trilateral Ramsar Site. Several transborder projects have been implemented in this area. Coordinated management plan for bilateral (Slovak-Hungarian) Ramsar Site in the Ipel/Ipoly Valley was developed. Bilateral projects have been implemented within the Slovak-Hungarian Crossborder Programme for curative tourism development in Domica-Baradla Cave System; Preparation Activities of the Szigetkoz Žitný Ostrov Nature Park and Further Joint Nature Protection Initiatives with the aim to strengthen cross-border cooperation and wetlands protection along the Danube River. There is bilateral co-operation on transboundary rivers with all neighbouring countries through (bilateral) transboundary commissions. On multilateral level International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) deals with wetland conservation, management and restoration. Special expert groups and task groups were set up for different issues. Representatives of Slovakia are member of these groups. The Tisza Group for the Tisza River basin has been established by the ICPDR as a platform for strengthening coordination and information exchange related to international, regional and national activities and to ensure harmonization and effectiveness of related efforts. The Tisza countries agreed to prepare a sub-basin plan the so called Tisza River Basin Management Plan. This plan integrates issues on water quality and water quantity, land and water management, flood and drought. The project JOINTISZA – Strengthening Cooperation between River Basin Management Planning and Flood Risk Prevention to Enhance the Status of Waters of the Tisza River Basin 2017-2019) was co-funded by INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme. Cooperation of protected areas from 9 countries along the Danube River is coordinated within the DANUBEPARKS network, were several projects have been implemented, e.g Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor (LIFE20 NAT/AT/000063, 2021-2027). The WILDisland project aims to strengthen the conservation status of the softwood alluvial forest priority habitat by restoring 34 islands along the entire Danube.
In 2023 planning project Reconnecting the Latorica river floodplain landscape in a transboundary context funded by the Endangered Landscapes & Seascapes Programme was started. Project is lead by Wetlands International European Association and brings transboundary cooperation between relevant expert organizations in Slovakia and Ukraine.
Through a combination of reconnecting and seasonal rewetting of floodplains, as well as active transboundary management, the project envisions a restored wetland landscape. That landscape extends up to 38,000 ha and will support abundant biodiversity, flood and drought protection, whilst also providing sustainable

livelihoods from nature friendly land management. Stakeholders from both countries will be brought together to share knowledge and understanding to co-develop a framework for the restoration of the landscape.
The project is made possible by the active collaboration of government and NGO partners in Slovakia and Ukraine, including: the Slovak Nature Conservancy, BirdLife Slovakia, Slovak Water Management Enterprise, Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Department of Ecology and Natural Resources of Zakarpattia Oblast of Ukraine, Uzhgorod interregional Water Management of the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine, and Ukrainian NGOs Danube-Carpathian Programme and Ekosphera.
Slovakia is an active part of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) which addresses common challenges faced by countries located in the Danube river basin, benefiting from strengthened cooperation for the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion. The EUSDR creates synergies and facilitates cooperation and networking of all stakeholders, aiming at using available resources efficiently. The Danube Region Strategy addresses a wide range of issues; these are divided among 4 pillars and 12 Priority Areas, including on water quality, biodiversity, landscapes and air and soil quality.

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
››› Slovakia is a Contracting Party to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA). Critical Sites Network was established on internationally important wetland sites across Slovakia. Slovakia participates in International Waterbirds Census in cooperation with Wetlands International. LIFE and Cross-border Cooperation projects have been implemented in collaboration with Hungary and the Czech Republic for conservation of endangered migratory bird species populations; Coordinated crossborder nature conservation activities along Hungarian and Slovakian section of the Danube River and along the Ipel/Ipoly River and Ramsar Site;
To work towards the conservation of the Danube sturgeons, the program “Sturgeon 2020” was developed by ICPDR to ensure viable populations of sturgeon and other indigenous fish species by 2020. The key measures contained in this program are aimed at habitat protection, restoration of migration routes, supportive stocking programs, economic alternatives to sturgeon fishery, fighting illegal fishing and the caviar black market, ecological education, the harmonization of legislation and law enforcement.
Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and SNC SR cooperate with the Danube Sturgeon Task Force and to support activities of Sturgeon 2020 program (as it is connected also with Bern Convention). Slovakia ensures the implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for sturgeons, both in the form of legislative measures as well as the management of protected areas within the Slovak section of the Danube River. Slovakia was involved also in the project MEASURES – Managing and restoring aquatic EcologicAl corridors for migratory fish species in the Danube River Basin (Interreg DTP, 2018-2021). Slovakia participated at World Fish Migration Day (WFMD) celebrations to raise attention to the need for restored river connections for migrating fish.

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}
☑ D=Planned

19.2 Does your country or institution implement capacity development strategies or actions for the Convention’s Strategic Plan?
☑ D=Planned

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 SNC SR and the Slovak Environment Agency provide lectures and trainings for teachers, primary and secondary schools, professionals and public on wetlands. Wetlands are included in thematic units (TU) in academic subjects Geography and Biology. At secondary level of education, the wetland conservation and wise-use issues are implemented as an integral part of the State Curriculum (SC). SC is defined as part of performance and content standards for every level of education as a transversal competence, hence pursued in different subjects regarding to its content. The transversal competences regarding wetland conservation

are part of environmental competences, which are included in key competences, thus they are obligatory part of education in schools. At secondary grammar schools, the main focus on wetlands is in the subjects of Geography in the 1st grade, learning about “geographical environment of the Earth”, later in the 4th grade in Ecology. In Vocational Schools there are fields of study focusing on environment protection such as Protection of environment or fields of study in Forestry. Every year, Ministry of Education announces a call for environmental project for elementary and upper secondary schools supported by a grant fund of 50,000 Euro. In tertiary education, the issue of wetland conservation is actively addressed in the curricula of study programmes in the field of agriculture and landscaping and ecological and environmental sciences. Subjects including the topics such as wetlands are provided mainly by the faculties of natural sciences. Wetlands are also part of the curricula of some study programmes in the study field of Ecological and environmental sciences. Currently, there are 87 accredited study programmes in the study field of Ecological and environmental sciences provided by eight higher education institutions (University of Prešov, Slovak University of Agriculture, University of Central Europe, Technical University in Zvolen, Technical University in Košice, Comenius University, Matej Bel University, Constantine the Philosopher University). By the decision of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic no. 2016 13738 / 36118: 7-10JO was approved a program of continuous education entitled Nature and Landscape Protection in the teaching of science subjects at primary and secondary schools, within which methodical days for teachers and methodical seminars for teachers are implemented

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

››› 4

b) at other wetlands
☑ E=# Opportunities

››› 4

19.4 Additional information
››› Participation of wetlands managers from Slovakia at International Training Courses in the Czech Republic (2023, 2024)
International Training on River Restoration in the Czech Republic- 2024.
The recent training course, hosted by the Elbe River Authority and organised within the framework of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative, built on more than thirty years of experience in wetland management training courses organised in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The first courses were developed and run by the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau, later transformed to Wetlands International, and organised in various countries of the CEE region. Since 1997, these training courses have been organised in the Czech Republic.
International Training on Wetlands Restoration in the Czech Republic- 2023
The course was attended by 10 participants from countries of the Carpathian region and Central Europe, including two colleagues from international NGO based in Austria, and one participant from Colombia. During the course participants visited on-going restoration projects in three Czech Ramsar sites: Šumava mires, Springs and mires of the Slavkovský les Forest, and Mires of Krušné hory Mountains.
In 2023 SNC SR organized 5 days excursion for the Czech Ramsar Committee members in cooperation with experts from relevant PLAs Adminstrations, Daphne, BROZ and SOS/BirdLife.12 wetland sites including Ramsar sites in various protected areas in Slovakia were visited. The meeting was focused on strengthening international cooperation with the Czech Ramsar Committee and sharing the experience and information in the field to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
In 2023 and 2024 several Slovak wetlands managers participated at river restoration study trips organized in Austria (Donau Auen National Park) to discuss and exchange technical information on river engineering measures such as the restoration of side channels, the rehabilitation of banks and other ecological improvements in regulated river systems.
In 2023 several experts from Slovakia attended at River Restoration Study trip organized by WCPA Europe together with the Danube Floodplain National Park (Nationalpark Donau-Auen).

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

International Training Course 2023
International Training Course 2024

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

19.5 Additional information
››› The National Report Format was used in analysis of shortcomings, compiling of annual work plans of SNC

SR, drawing of the updated national Wetland management Programme and Action Plan for wetlands conservation and wise use in Slovakia and development of the Water Policy Concept of the Slovak Republic and also the National Water Plan.

Section 4. Optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that has developed national targets to provide information on those

Goal 1

Target 1: Wetland benefits

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

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Priority

☑ C=Low

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Resourcing
☑ C=Limiting

Target 2: Water Use

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

Target 2: Water Use - Priority

☑ C=Low

Target 2: Water Use - Resourcing

☑ C=Limiting

Target 2: Water Use - National Targets

››› The restoration activities are focused mainly on protected areas. Water uses are limited in protected areas, focus is on protection.

Target 3: Public and private sectors

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

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Priority

☑ B=Medium

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Resourcing

☑ D=Severely limiting

Target 4: Invasive alien species

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

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Resourcing

☑ C=Limiting

Target 4: Invasive alien species - National Targets

››› Ensure that the negative impact of invasive species on biodiversity and ecosystems in Slovakia is mitigated.
Approve the strategy for invasive species in Slovakia and implement its measures for prevention, control and removal of invasive species.
Ensure funding for the elimination of invasive species and determine prioritization and the method of support.
Establish a commission for introduced species to deal with the conditions and regulation of their importation and management.
Change the management regime of invasive alien species/non-native species as part of the amendment of the law
Continuously identify and control newly spreading invasive species, the pathways and methods of spread by which they reach territory of Slovakia.

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Planned activity

››› All activities are set to reach above mentioned targets. They include e.g. meetings with relevant stakeholders, preparation of management plans and securing fund for financial needs

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2024 and how they contribute to achievement of the Global Biodiversity Framework Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in October 2024
››› • On 22nd June 2022 the Government has approved the Pathways Action Plan, which was based on Analysis of the Pathways.
• Decree No. 485/2023 of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic amending the decree of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 450/2019 which establishes the conditions and ways to remove invasive alien species

Goal 2

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites

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

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Resourcing

☑ C=Limiting

Target 7: Sites at risk

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

Target 7: Sites at risk - Priority

☑ B=Medium

Target 7: Sites at risk - Resourcing

☑ D=Severely limiting

Goal 3

Target 8: National wetland inventories

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

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Resourcing

☑ C=Limiting

Target 9: Wise Use

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

Target 9: Wise Use - Priority

☑ B=Medium

Target 9: Wise Use - Resourcing

☑ C=Limiting

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge

The traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Priority

☑ B=Medium

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Resourcing

☑ D=Severely limiting

Target 11: Wetland functions

Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 2, 12 and 13]

Target 11: Wetland functions - Priority

☑ B=Medium

Target 11: Wetland functions - Resourcing

☑ C=Limiting

Target 12: Restoration

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

Target 12: Restoration - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 12: Restoration - Resourcing

☑ C=Limiting

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability

Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10, 14 and 15]

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Resourcing

☑ B=Adequate

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - National Targets

››› Slovakia has set national targets aimed at enhancing the sustainability of key sectors that impact wetlands, in alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10, 14, and 15. These targets include:
-Implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management: To protect and sustainably use water ecosystems, including wetlands, as per the EU Water Framework Directive.
-Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Practices: Encouraging farming methods that reduce negative impacts on wetlands and promote biodiversity.
-Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment Processes: Ensuring that all development projects in key sectors undergo rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) with a focus on wetland conservation.
-Restoration and Conservation of Wetland Areas: Aiming to restore degraded wetlands and protect existing ones to enhance their ecological functions and services.

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Planned activity

››› To achieve these national targets, Slovakia plans to undertake the following activities:
-Enhance Monitoring and Data Management Systems: Improve data collection and establish centralized databases for better decision-making regarding wetlands.
-Capacity Building and Education: Organize training programs for stakeholders and awareness campaigns for the public to highlight the importance of wetlands.
-Strengthen Intersectoral Collaboration: Foster cooperation among government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and local communities to integrate wetland conservation into sectoral policies.
-Mobilize Financial Resources: Seek additional funding from national budgets and international sources, including EU funds, to support wetland conservation initiatives.

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2024 and how they contribute to achievement of the Global Biodiversity Framework Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in October 2024
››› By 2024, the concerted efforts across multiple sectors have led to enhanced sustainability practices that positively impact wetlands. These actions directly contribute to achieving GBF Targets 10, 14, and 15 by promoting sustainable management, restoring ecosystems, and integrating biodiversity into all areas of development. Furthermore, these outcomes advance several SDGs by fostering environmental stewardship, economic prosperity, and social well-being, ultimately contributing to global efforts in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.
Contribution to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets:
Sustainable Management: The integration of sustainable practices reduces pressure on wetlands, promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity:
Water and Energy Sectors: Adoption of water-efficient technologies and renewable energy sources reduces the impact on wetlands and aquatic ecosystems.
Mining and Industry: Introduction of stricter environmental regulations minimizes pollution and habitat destruction near wetland areas.
Agriculture and Forestry: Promotion of sustainable farming practices and responsible forestry management helps preserve wetland ecosystems.
Ecosystem Restoration: Restoration projects contribute to enhancing ecosystem resilience and connectivity, aiding in climate change mitigation.
Wetland Restoration Projects: Initiatives restore degraded wetlands, enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services.
Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals:
SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation): Improved water management practices ensure the availability and sustainable management of water resources.
SDG 13 (Climate Action): Restoration of wetlands enhances carbon capture, contributing to climate change mitigation efforts.

SDG 15 (Life on Land): Conservation of wetlands supports aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity.
SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Sustainable sectoral practices create green jobs and promote inclusive economic growth.
SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): Enhanced livelihoods and sustainable agriculture practices improve food security and reduce poverty in local communities.

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Additional Information

››› Slovakia recognizes the vital role that wetlands play in biodiversity conservation and supporting human livelihoods. Despite a strong legal framework, resource limitations pose challenges to the effective implementation of wetland sustainability initiatives. The country's additional efforts include:
Policy Integration: Ensuring wetland conservation is embedded within national development plans, climate change strategies, and sectoral policies.
International Commitments: Complying with international agreements such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to promote global wetland conservation efforts.
Research and Innovation: Investing in scientific research to develop innovative solutions for wetland management and restoration.
Public Engagement: Encouraging community involvement in wetland conservation through citizen science projects and local stewardship programs.
These activities contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly:
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
DG 13: Climate Action
SDG 15: Life on Land
By addressing these areas, Slovakia aims to enhance the sustainability of key sectors affecting wetlands, thereby supporting biodiversity conservation and improving human well-being.

Goal 4

Target 15: Regional Initiatives

Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Priority

☑ B=Medium

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Resourcing

☑ C=Limiting

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use

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

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Priority

☑ B=Medium

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Resourcing

☑ D=Severely limiting

Target 17: Financial and other resources

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

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Resourcing

☑ D=Severely limiting

Target 18: International cooperation

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.

Target 18: International cooperation - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 18: International cooperation - Resourcing

☑ B=Adequate

Target 19: Capacity Building

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

Target 19: Capacity Building - Priority

☑ B=Medium

Target 19: Capacity Building - Resourcing

☑ D=Severely limiting