



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>

>>> Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of South Sudan

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[South Sudan.pdf](#)

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority

>>> Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of South Sudan

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

>>> Joseph Africano BARTEL - Undersecretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Mailing address

>>> Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of South Sudan
Bilpam Road, North of Seventh Day Adventist Complex,
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Telephone

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Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title

>>> Samuel Justin LUATE - Senior Inspector for Wetlands and Ecological Zones

Mailing address

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Munuki Block, Juba Municipality

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

Name and title

>>> Paul Lado DEMETRY

Name of organisation

>>> Directorate of Wetlands and Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of South Sudan

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Munuki Block, Juba Municipality

Telephone
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>>> ladolodemen@yahoo.com

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

Name and title
>>> John Ater MAKER

Name of organisation
>>> Directorate of Wetlands and Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of South Sudan

Mailing address
>>> Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of South Sudan
Bilpam Road, North of Seventh Day Adventist Complex,
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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)

>>> The Ministry, in collaboration with GIZ, Managed to develop the Sudd Monograph and Management Plan 2021-2031

2)

>>> In collaboration with the Nile Basin Initiative, successfully developed the Sudd Wetlands Management Strategy 2022-2050, which was launched in Juba in July 2022

3)

>>> The Ministry successfully conducted a capacity building training for the natural resources sector institutions and the Sudd Wetlands stakeholders in the state governments on awareness and ecosystem values and service. The training was effected in Juba in April 2023.

4)

>>> In collaboration with UNEP, the Ministry successfully developed a Rapid Environmental Assessment of the Sudd Wetlands Ecosystem in South Sudan. 2022

5)

>>> The Ministry successfully developed a community driven Action Plan April 2024, for part of the Sudd Wetlands in Terekeka County of Central Equatoria State

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

1)

>>> The Ministry was constrained by limited funding for wetlands management

2)

>>> The Ministry does not have the adequate technical staff at the state/field level enough to implement the strategic and management plans developed,

3)

>>> There is no stand-alone policy and legal frameworks to guide the management of wetlands in South Sudan

4)

>>> The coordination mechanism with the stakeholders at the state level is limited

5)

>>> Lack of access to technical and financial support from the Ramsar Convention

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

1)

>>> Development of Wetlands Policy and Legal Framework in South Sudan

2)

>>> Capacity Building of the stakeholders involved in the management and protection of the Sudd Wetlands

3)

>>> Establishment of an institutionalized wetlands management coordination mechanism

4)

>>> Establishment of National Wetlands Information Centre

5)

>>> Development of Community Participation Strategy and Gender Mainstreaming Strategy in Wetlands Management and Protection

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

>>> Yes, the Administrative Authority recommends for access to financial and technical support from the Secretariat

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)?

>>> Yes, establishing effective partnership with IOPs is important for effective implementation

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.

>>> 1. During the development process of the wetlands management plan for Terekeka in Central Equatoria State, gender representation was at 50% female to 50% male ratio, to ensure equal participation in wetlands management.

2. The awareness program conducted in collaboration with UNESCO on Conservation of Wetlands resources, female representation was significant. Gender representation was at 50% female to 50% male ratio.

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

>>> 1. Allocation of funds for implementation of gender specific activities in the wetlands management plans

2. Planning and implementation of gender mainstreaming plans in wetlands management

3. Capacity Development trainings

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

>>> 1. Identification of cultural barriers in women participation in decision making and management of wetlands, and resolved through awareness

2. Formation of women lead groups/association effective in wetlands management

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

>>> 1. The National Environmental Policy 2015-2025

2. The Sudd Wetlands Management Plan 2022-2050

3. Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare Strategic Plan 2022-2027

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).

>>> 1. The Sudd Wetlands Management Strategy 2022-2027

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

>>> 1. South Sudan Nature Conservation Organization

2. Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

3. Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries

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

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

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

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

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

Target 1

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14]

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

Target 2

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

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

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

☒ D=Planned

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

☒ A=Yes

2.2 Additional Information

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[A rapid assessment of the state of Sudd wetlands ecosystem in South Sudan-For Web Ir - Copy.pdf](#)

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}

☒ D=Planned

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

☒ D=Planned

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

☒ A=Yes

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}

☒ D=Planned

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ D=Planned

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}

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ X=Unknown

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

☒ B=No

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

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

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

Target 5

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

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

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

☒ D=Planned

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 1.0

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 0.0

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 1.0

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

If "yes", please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

If "partially", please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

If "planned", please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

☒ B=No

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 0.0

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

☒ E=# Sites

>>> 1.0

5.7 Additional information

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

>>> The Sudd 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.

>>> Limited technical capacity of the officials assigned for the updating.

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}

☒ D=Planned

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}

☒ B=No

Section 3 - Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

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

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

Target 8

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

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

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

☒ D=Planned

8.1 Additional information

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

>>> It is planned to be completed by December 2025

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

☒ B=No

8.2 Additional information

>>> There is no NWI prepared.

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☒ C=Not updated

8.3 Additional information

>>> The NWI is planned to be updated every six years

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

☒ A=Yes

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

>>> The ministry planned to establish a wetland information center in the Ministry and the stakeholder states in the Sudd and other wetlands in the country. These will be the data/information custodian for consumers and planners.

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 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km²)
A -- Permanent shallow marine waters	N/A
B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds	N/A
C -- Coral reefs	N/A
D -- Rocky marine shores	N/A
E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores	N/A
F -- Estuarine waters	N/A
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	N/A
Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs	N/A
H -- Intertidal marshes	N/A
I -- Intertidal forested wetlands	N/A
J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons	N/A
K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons	N/A
Zk(a) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	N/A

8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km²)
L -- Permanent inland deltas	N/A
M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls	N/A
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks	N/A
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes	N/A
P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes	N/A

Q -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes	N/A
R -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats	N/A
Sp -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	N/A
Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	N/A
Tp -- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools	N/A
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils	N/A
U -- Non-forested peatlands	N/A
Va -- Alpine wetlands	N/A
Vt -- Tundra wetlands	N/A
W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands	N/A
Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	N/A
Xp -- Forested peatlands	N/A
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.	N/A
Zg -- Geothermal wetlands	N/A
Zk(b) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	N/A

8.6 Human-made wetlands

	Square kilometers (km²)
1 -- Aquaculture ponds.	N/A
2 -- Ponds	N/A
3 -- Irrigated land	N/A
4 -- Seasonally flooded agricultural land	N/A
5 -- Salt exploitation sites	N/A
6 -- Water storage areas	N/A
7 -- Excavations	N/A
8 -- Wastewater treatment areas	N/A
9 -- Canals and drainage channels, ditches	N/A

Zk(c) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	N/A
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8.7 How has the ecological character of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since COP14 ? {8.5}

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

Please select only one per square.

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

8.7 Additional Information

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[A rapid assessment of the state of Sudd wetlands ecosystem in South Sudan-For Web_Ir - Copy.pdf](#)

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

Please select only one per square.

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

8.9 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Wetland delineation methods and approaches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Habitat classifications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Standardization in data interpretation methods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Relevant skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

h) Data collection and mapping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Collaboration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Others	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

8.9 Additional Information

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

>>> Capacity building on Community participation engagement strategies

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

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

8.10 Additional Information

>>> Capacity building on community engagement and participation

Target 9

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

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

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ D=Planned

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

☒ D=Planned

9.5 Additional information

>>> The South Sudan National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change 2021 addressed the role of wetlands in mitigating and adapting to climate change. According to the NAPA, wetlands play a crucial role in climate change mitigation by acting as significant carbon sinks. Additionally, wetlands help in regulating water cycles, reducing the impact of floods, and maintaining biodiversity, which further supports ecosystem resilience against climate change impacts.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[NAP2021.SouthSudan.pdf](#) - First South Sudan National Adaptation Plan 2021

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

☒ A=Yes

9.6 Additional Information

>>> Biodiversity, ecosystem, and sustainable wetland management in South Sudan's NDC are addressed through various strategies:

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands:

Conduct ground research on methane emissions from wetlands.

Build capacity for wetland processes and GHG emissions.

Identify, classify, and protect wetlands for sustainable management.

Monitoring and Inventory:

Develop an inventory of wetlands and biodiversity hotspots using ground surveys, GIS, and satellite imagery.

Conduct vulnerability assessments to identify threats to wetlands.

Establishing Buffer Zones:

Create buffer zones around wetlands to limit human activities and maintain water quality.

Assess wetland services and areas of use.

Restoration of Degraded Wetlands:

Restore degraded wetlands to improve carbon sequestration and build long-term carbon stock.

Develop integrated management plans and educate the public on sustainable wetland management.

Afforestation and Reforestation:

Implement afforestation and reforestation projects, including planting 100 million trees over ten years.

Map degraded areas and establish central tree nurseries to supply plants.

Forest Policy Review:

Integrate climate-change strategies into the Forest Policy.

Develop regulations to reduce deforestation and strengthen land-use management planning.

Alternative Fuels:

Promote the use of biofuels and install biogas plants in rural areas to reduce dependence on forest resources.

REDD+ Programmes:

Implement REDD+ programmes to provide alternative livelihood options and raise awareness about forest management activities.

Biodiversity Mapping and Strengthening Action Plans:

Conduct biodiversity mapping studies to understand native and endangered species.

Strengthen the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Wildlife Conservation:

Establish wildlife conservancies, protected areas, and national parks.

Create water points for wildlife in protected areas.

Integrated Natural Resources Management:

Promote an integrated approach to natural resources management, coordinating efforts to address human and institutional factors affecting conservation and livelihoods.

Ecotourism:

Promote sustainable community-based ecotourism to provide livelihood opportunities while protecting biodiversity.

Capacity Building and Awareness:

Increase awareness and build the capacity of stakeholders on climate change and environmental concerns.

Strengthen governance frameworks for enforcing environmental regulations.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[South-Sudans-Second-Nationally-Determined-Contribution-lowres.pdf](#) - South Sudan Second Nationally Determine Contribution

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}

☒ D=Planned

9.7 Additional information

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Sudd Wetlands Management Strategy 2022.pdf](#) - Strategic Plan for the Management of the Sudd Wetlands

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

Please select only one per square.

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

9.8 Additional information

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Sudd Wetlands Economic Valuation.pdf](#) - Economic Valuation of the Sudd Wetlands

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}

☒ A=Yes

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?

☒ C=In preparation

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}

☒ D=Planned

10.5 Have traditional knowledge and management practices relevant to the wise use of wetlands been documented and their application encouraged {10.3}

☒ D=Planned

Target 11

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

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

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

☒ A=Yes

11.1 Additional information

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

>>> An assessment was done for the only Sudd Wetlands as a Ramsar site

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[A rapid assessment of the state of Sudd wetlands ecosystem in South Sudan-For Web Ir - Copy.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}

☒ X=Unknown

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

☒ D=Planned

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

>>> Socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the Sudd Wetlands Management Strategic Plan. The Sudd Wetland is the only Ramsar site in South Sudan

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Sudd Wetlands Management Strategy 2022.pdf](#)

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

☒ A=Yes

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

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

☒ A=Yes

12.2 Additional information

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

>>> 1.The Sudd Wetland - Swamps

2. The Machar - Marshes,

3. Lake Yirol,

4. Lake No

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

☒ D=Planned

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

	Restoration planned m2 or km2	Under restoration	Total Restored
Marine/Coastal	N/A	N/A	N/A
Inland	N/A	N/A	N/A
Human-made	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

☒ D=Planned

Target 13

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10 and 14]

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ A=Yes

Section 3 - Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

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

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17]

Target 15

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

15.1 Has your country been part of the development and implementation of a Ramsar Regional Initiative?? {15.1}

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

Target 16

Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 21].

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

Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below

Please select only one per square.

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

16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) that focus on wetlands have been established? {16.2}

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ X=Unknown

b) at other wetlands

☒ X=Unknown

16.3 Does the Contracting Party {16.3}

Please select only one per square.

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

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

☒ D=Planned

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

{16.5}

☒ A=Yes

16.5 Additional information

>>> South Sudan has the National Natural Resources Sector Working Group. It brings together natural resources sector institutions

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

☒ B=No

16.8 Did your country undertake any campaigns, programmes or projects to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife during the World Wetlands Days since COP14? {16.8}

☒ A=Yes

16.9 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {18.5}

☒ A=Yes

Target 17

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

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

Please select only one per square.

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

☒ B=No

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}

☒ D=Planned

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

☒ A=Yes

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

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

18.4 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}

☒ D=Planned

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

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ A=Yes

18.7 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

>>> The Nile Basin Initiative

Target 19

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

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20]

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ D=Planned

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

☒ D=Planned

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ E=# opportunities

>>> 1

b) at other wetlands

☒ X=Unknown

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

☒ A=Yes

