

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-sampleletter >>> UGANDA

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF AA UGANDA.pdf - LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY - UGANDA

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority >>> Ministry of Water and Environment

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title >>> Dr. Alfred Okot Okidi, Permanent Secretary

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Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

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

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

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Name of organisation >>> Ministry of Water and Environment

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

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Name of organisation >>> Nature Uganda

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Telephone >>> +256-772522727

Email >>> achilles.byaruhanga@natureuganda.org

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

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Name of organization >>> Ministry of Water and Environment

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Phone >>> +256-778158696

Email >>> namugangalinah@gmail.com

Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP14 reporting)

A. What have been the five main achievements of the implementation of the Convention since COP14?

1)

>>> All wetlands in the Country totaling to 8,614 wetlands were gazetted and a legal notice issued on 18th April 2023.

2)

>>> Five wise use demonstration sites were established comprising of fishponds and small-scale irrigation facilities on 5 wetlands (Limoto, Katanyebwa, Nyaruzinga, Ruhorobebero, Awoja and Kanjobe located in the districts of Pallisa, Nakaseke, Bushenyi, Sheema, Kabale and Ngora.

3)

>>> Thirty-four thousand hectares of degraded wetland areas have been restored, one thousand and five hundred kilometers were demarcated with concrete pillars.

4)

>>> 15 Community Based wetland management plans were developed and two framework management plans of Rwizi and Mpologoma wetland systems were reviewed. As part of implementation of some of the management plans, wetland-based wetland enterprises were promoted along Mpanga, Nyangiriire-Kashambya, Rucece, Muziizi wetlands where communities including men and women were supported through training and provision of beehives and craft making items.

5)

>>> State of wetlands report 2021 detailing the current status and trends of wetlands in the country has been finalized and printed.

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

1)

>>> Population and development pressure leading to over exploitation of wetland resources, encroachment on wetlands and degradation of the wetland quality.

2)

>>> Limited quantitative and qualitative scientific data on wetlands values and benefits to guide decision making.

3)

>>> Climate change and its impacts that have led to the reduction of water levels in wetlands creating conditions that encourage encroachment, increased incidences of fire and loss of biodiversity.

4)

>>> Lack of economically viable alternatives for wetland dependent communities

5)

>>> Limited human and financial capacity for management of the vast wetland resource in the country.

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

1)

>>> Updating wetland inventory for all wetlands in the country and mapping to assess the trends. The Inventory for wetlands in Uganda was undertaken in 1994 with site specific updates done in 2006 to 2008.

2)

>>> Establishing more wise use demonstration sites as learning centers for communities depending on wetlands and promoting wetland ecotourism through development of wetland Ecoparks and ecotourism sites.

3)

>>> Restoration of 20,000 hectares of degraded wetland areas.

4)

>>> Promotion of research and understanding including wetlands ecosystem services valuation, carbon stock assessment in peatlands and publication of awareness materials

5)

>>> Designation of three new Ramsar Sites (including one transboundary systems)

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

>>> Increased dissemination of the convention implementation guidelines, undertaking Ramsar Advisory Missions, strengthening technical cooperation and networking with Ramsar IOPs and the contracting parties, engagement with research and training institutions to enhance capacity of contracting parties in wetlands assessment, RIS and management.

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)?

>>> Solicit financial and where possible provide technical support for the implementation of the Convention. Support the RRIs to assess financial resources that can support implementation of the convention and visibility in the various regions.

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

>>> The Ministry of Water and Environment through the Wetlands Management Department developed a wetland gender mainstreaming strategy that is currently guiding mainstreaming of gender into wetland management activities like restoration, demarcation and management planning.

The recruitment and deployment in the Ministry of Water and Environment takes into consideration gender aspects and all genders are represented during recruitment, implementation of work and decision-making processes.

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

>>> Enhanced training on gender and creating designate special positions for marginalized groups in various committees

H. Please describe lessons learnt in the context of wetlands and gender equality work in your country. >>> Under the wetland management plan implementation committees that are formed to manage or guide management of wetlands, some key positions are reserved for the vulnerable groups including women, people with disabilities and youth.

Use of some wetland resources is sometimes dependent on the gender and therefore when designing interventions such as wetland-based enterprises, the kind of resource and the users must be taken into consideration so as to ensure that all genders benefit.

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

>>> Guidelines for mainstreaming gender into wetland management activities

Wetland gender strategy

Gender action plans for wetland projects

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). >>> Designated a youth focal point for the country

Youth taking lead in key activities during world wetlands day celebrations including painting competitions, school debates and

Promoting and supporting youth projects that are in line with the wise use concept e.g fish farming and apiary

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

>>> Nature Uganda, Makerere University, District local government, International Union for conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Environmental Alert-Uganda, Wetland International, GIZ-Uganda and International Water Management Institute..

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
 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

>>> Wetland management issues have been integrated in the 4th National Development Plan for the Country, Wetland issues have also been captured in the the NDCs for the country and the updated National Biodiversity Action Plan.

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}

2.1 Additional Information

>>> All projects related to water in the country take wetland restoration and conservation into consideration. Projects anticipated to have any impacts on wetlands are all subjected to environment and social impact assessments.

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

>>> The Ministry of Water and Environment under the Directorate of Water Resources regularly undertakes assessments for water quality and water flows for some selected water resources including wetlands. However, limited studies on environmental flows have been undertaken.

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

☑ C=Partially

2.3 Additional Information

>>> Designation of Ramsar sites has helped enhance the status of these wetlands and contributed to sustainable use of the wetland resources plus reduced drainage. However, some Ramsar sites are still facing challenges of pollution as a result of use of herbicides and pesticides by the neighboring communities as well as pollution from industries though on a smaller scale. However, there is increased awareness about the Ramsar sites by the stakeholders and this has led to reduced negative activities adjacent or within the Ramsar sites.

Some Ramsar sites are still facing challenges of pollution as a result of use of pesticides by the neighboring communities. However stakeholders undertaking activities adjacent or within the Ramsar sites regularly consult the department before activities are initiated.

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}

☑ A=Yes

2.4 Additional Information

>>> The Water Resources Regulation Department under the Ministry of Water and Environment regulates all water uses and allocation through a permitting system. To this effect, guidelines have been developed that are currently being used to guide water allocation to different uses.

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

2.5 Additional Information

>>> It is a prerequisite that water development projects in the country take into consideration an integrated approach and consider other ecosystems such as wetlands and forests as well as the catchments. To this effect, several water development projects being undertaken are Intergrated and the issue of ecosystem restoration and conservation takes priority.

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

2.6 Additional Information

>>> The use of constructed wetlands is minimal and has so far been limited to industries. So far, 5 industries have constructed wetlands being used to treat industrial effluent.

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? $\{3.1\}$

3.1 Additional Information

Please specify if it was applied for policy formulation or in implementation of good practice. >>> Uganda as a country has policies that promote public-private partnerships in general. Wetlands Management Department encourages private sector players to invest in wetlands especially ecotourism and provides the required authorizations and documentation to support the approval processes. Several guidelines have been put in place that the private sector can utilize for development and implementation of activities/investments in wetlands.

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

>>> Some private sector /companies have planned to support development of management plans for Ramsar sites for example Total Energies EP is supporting the review and update of the Murchison falls delta wetland system Ramsar site management plan and will also support restoration activities.

Private companies have been brought on board to support conservation efforts for example companies like Coca-cola and Nile breweries have been supporting community-based wetland restoration activities and wetland management planning.

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

☑ C=Partially

3.3 Additional information

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

>>> There is a provision in the law to support this action but due to limited capacity implementation has not been very effective.

With the support of the Ministry, Water and Environment cooperatives have been formed in communities and these are supported with revolving funds and loans.

Lastly, communities that sustainably use their wetlands are supported with alternative livelihood options and also trained on value addition of wetland resources such as craft making.

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.

>>> Whereas wetland permits were meant to promote sustainable use of wetlands, they had been abused over time. To that effect, Issuance of wetland user permits were suspended by Cabinet in 2023 and this has seen the level of degradation especially in the urban areas drastically reduce.

Target 4

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

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

4.1 Additional information

>>> Inventory of invasive species was undertaken by IUCN on selected wetlands and does not cover the entire country. However, the species identified are almost similar across wetlands in the country and they include Lantana camara, water hyacinth among others.

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

>>> Management of invasive species is spearheaded by Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and some strategies for management of invasive species have been put in place including those for management of the water hyacinth.

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

☑ F=Fewer than #

>>> control of water hyacinth (1)

4.3 Additional Information

>>> Ministry of Agriculture has been controlling invasive species especially those that are dangerous to Livestock and has also done tremendous work to control the water hyacinth including use of biological control mechanisms. Uganda wildlife authority also manages a number of invasive species in the National parks through a number of management interventions including physical removal.

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

4.4 Additional Information

>>> No specific information is available on wetlands and barely any studies have been undertaken to assess the effectiveness of such programs.

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? $\{5.1\}$ \square A=Yes 5.1 Additional information

>>> Uganda has a comprehensive plan for designation of Ramsar sites. Furthermore assessment of potential sites for designation has been undertaken.

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

☑ E=# Sites

>>> 12 Ramsar sites

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

»» 7

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

☑ E=# Sites

>>> None

5.2 - 5.4 Additional information

>>> All the 12 Ramsar site have manaamnet plans and management committees although some of the managament plans are old and due for review. Some managament plans like that of Mabamba bay ramsar site has been recently updated and the review for Murchision delta ramsar site is planned.

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 I D=Planned

>>> Assessment of 7 Ramsar sites using the management effectiveness tracking tool has been planned for the next triennium.

5.5 Additional information

Please provide the source links or upload the source documents here indicating the assessment tool used (e.g. Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), Resolution XII.15), and the source of the information. >>> Plans are underway to undertake assessment using the Ramsar site management METT.

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

>>> 12 Ramsar sites

5.6 Additional information

>>> Cross sectoral management committees are established to ensure oversite of interventions proposed on the management plans. However, not all the committees are active due to funding limitations.

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

 \square E=# Sites

>>> five sites

5.7 Additional information

For example give the name and official number of the Site or Sites. >>> Sango Bay-Musambwa Island-Kagera Wetland System...Site No 1641 Lake Nabugabo wetland system ... Site No 1373 Lake George wetland system...Site No 394 Lutembe Bay wetland system...Site No 1637 Muchison-Albert Delta wetland system...Site no 1640

5.8 Resolution VI.13 urges Parties to give priority to providing the Secretariat with maps and completed Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) for all Sites designated for the Ramsar List, and to revise this data at least every six years. If your country has not updated its RIS as required, describe the challenges in updating

RIS, particularly descriptions of ecological character.

>>> The original boundaries that were submitted have been revised and the Government is in the process of engaging the respective stakeholders to agree on the proposed extensions.

More up to date has also been collected that is being used to update the Ramsar sites Information systems, a process that will be completed by early 2025.

However, there are challenges that include; Resources (both human and financial), the accessibility of some of the wetlands in quite difficult and this limits regular data collection, technical expertise to assess the diffrent taxa is also limited.

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? $\{7.1\}$ \square A=Yes

7.1 Additional information

If "Yes", please provide the source links or upload the source documents here describing the mechanisms established >>> Uganda operates a decentralized system of governance and this provides for management of wetlands where they are located by the local governments (Local Government Act). The Ramsar sites are monitored and their day-to-day supervision is under the District Natural resources Office, but Wetlands management Department provides overall oversight and technical supervision of the Ramsar sites in country. So there is information flow from the Ramsar site committees through the Natural resources' Officers to the Ministry of Water and Environment.

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? $\{7.2\}$ \square A=Yes

7.2 Additional information

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

>>> The condition of three sites was brought to the attention of the Ramsar Secretariat and a Ramsar Advisory mission visited Uganda to that effect. These sites include Lake George Ramsar wetland system site, Murchison falls delta wetland system Ramsar site and Lutembe Bay wetland system Ramsar site.

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} $\ensuremath{\boxtimes}$ A=Yes

8.1 Additional information

For example, if "in progress" or "planned", by when will it be completed? >>> The first comprehensive inventory was undertaken in 1994, some updates were undertaken between 2006 and 2008 but limited to a few areas. Inventory has also been undertaken for a few districts in Northen Uganda and Western Uganda that missed out on the first inventory due to insurgency at the time. The inventory is now overdue for update.

8.2 If your country has an NWI, has it been updated in the last decade [2014-2024]? {8.2} \square B=No

8.2 Additional information

>>> The National Wetland Inventory has not been updated in the last decade majorly due to lack of adequate financial resources to undertake inventory across the country and secondly, due to limited technical expertise.

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?

☑ C=Not updated

8.3 Additional information

>>> As much as the National Environment (Riverbanks, Lakeshores and Wetlands management) regulations provide for inventory update every 5 years, the government of Uganda has not been able to update its inventory due to limited funding. However, mapping of wetlands to establish the status in terms of intact wetland cover and degraded wetlands is undertaken every 5 years and this provides some information to guide interventions such as restoration.

8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information publicly available? {8.4} $\ensuremath{\boxtimes}$ A=Yes

8.4 Additional information

For example if "partially" or "planned" by when will the data/information be made public? >>> Inventory data was published in form of District wetland inventory reports and this information is available both in soft and hard copy and is open to the public.

8.5 Please explain how the NWI data/information is maintained if at all? {8.3} >>> The NWI data was all input in form of tables(access) and linked with the geodatabase which is the National wetland information system (NWIS). The NWIS which is under the Wetlands Management Department is managed by a system manager and is regularly updated and maintained.

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. $\{8.6\}$ \square E=# km2

>>> 33,762.6Km2

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/guidanceon-information-on-national-wetland-extent.

>>> All wetlands in Uganda are classified under inland wetlands and based on the 2020/2021 mapping, the coverage of wetlands stood at 33,762.6Km2. We classify our wetlands into permanent (10,185.7 Km2) and seasonal (23,576.9Km2) wetlands and also further classify based on the land use /land cover as; Papyrus and floating vegetation (8,259.8Km2), Grasslands (8,865.8Km2), Woodlands (1,844.5Km2), Small-scale Farmlands (10,454.1Km2), Built-up (204Km2), Bushlands (3,405.9Km2), Forested Areas(81.4Km2), Commercial Farmlands(647Km2)

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
A Permanent shallow marine waters	-
B Marine subtidal aquatic beds	-
C Coral reefs	-
D Rocky marine shores	-
E Sand, shingle or pebble shores	-
F Estuarine waters	-
G Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	-

Ga Bivalve (shellfish) reefs	-
H Intertidal marshes	-
l Intertidal forested wetlands	-
J Coastal brackish/saline lagoons	-
K Coastal freshwater lagoons	
Zk(a) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	-

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km2) \implies 0

8.6 Inland Wetlands

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

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

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2) >>> 33,762.6

8.6 Human-made wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
1 Aquaculture ponds.	-
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	

8.6 Human-made wetlands total (km2)

»» 0

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.

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

>>> The government of Uganda has put measures to ensure that intact wetlands are protected and degraded ones restored and their boundaries demarcated. It has also intensified awareness promotion using different media.

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

>>> There has intensive restoration across the country and some wetlands have shown signs of recovery.

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

	Ye s
a) Access to data and data acquisition standards	5
b) Wetland delineation methods and approaches	7
c) Habitat classifications	
d) Standardization in data interpretation methods	2
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	
f) Resources	2
g) Relevant skills	V
h) Data collection and mapping	7
i) Collaboration	
j) Others	

8.9 Additional Information

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

>>> There is need to harmonize the classification systems and possibly train COPs on this. Various countries have varied wetlands and Uganda for example uses a classification system that was adopted from the National Biomass study in the early 1990s. Some of the classes are so small that they are left out during mapping given the resolution of images used.

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.



a) Resources	2
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	V

8.10 Additional Information

>>> There is inadequate data for example on wetland biodiversity, peatlands carbon stocks and emissions, environmental flow data and ecosystems valuation and this scanty data limits the reporting to the different frameworks and at times conservation of wetland.

Target 9

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

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

☑ A=Yes

9.1 Additional information

>>> The Policy was developed in 1995 and is currently being updated to integrate emerging issues including climate change and peatlands among others. The country also has a law on Environment " The National Environment Act, 2019" that has two sections 54 and 55 dedicated to wetland management.

9.2 Additional information

>>> The ongoing revision of the wetlands policy caters for some of the commitments under the convention that are relevant to Uganda.

9.3 Additional information

>>> Wetlands have been recognized as critical natural resources in the country that contribute to the water cycle, water storage, recharge of aquifers, water purification and hence a key enabling sector for national development. Water resources in Uganda are managed through the catchment approach of which wetlands are given priority during planning and implementation of any water interventions. Therefore, the water catchment management plans include wetlands.

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

>>> There is a communication strategy for water resources management-based catchments. Several capacity

development and education programs have been undertaken. Awareness programs have also been designed and implemented targeting all levels from policy makers to the community members along the catchment. There are inter-district catchment management committees who are tasked with oversight on the management of the catchments.

9.5 Additional information

>>> Wetland management issues have been integrated in the climate change policy and act.

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

>>> Wetlands and peatlands were included in the Nationally determined contributions and also in the NAPAs and NAMAs.

9.7 Additional information

>>> The country has developed guidelines such as edge gardening and fish farming along the edges of wetlands to guide sustainable farming.

Several projects have been developed with three projects currently being implemented to that effect including;

1. Building resilient communities, wetlands ecosystems and associated catchments in Uganda.

2. Reducing climate change vulnerability of local communities in Uganda through EbA in forest and wetland ecosystems.

3. The National wetland restoration project.

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

>>> Some studies have been done such as the contribution of wetlands to community livelihoods and economic valuation of some wetlands such as Nabugabo and Sango Bay. However, the studies have been limited in scope and are not adequate to inform certain policy decisions. There is limited research on total economic value of wetland services, carbon stock and emission of GHG from peatlands, the impact of agriculture on wetlands especially the rice farming in 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} ☑ C=Partially

9.9 Additional information

>>> The country has made deliberate effort to conserve urban wetlands for storm water management as well as maintaining green spaces. Restoration efforts have been intensified in the urban areas. One of the cities (Masaka city) has also been proposed for accreditation as a Ramsar city. The Ministry is currently designing a project on integrated management of wetlands targeting wetlands in seven cities and one of the activities is to develop part of those wetlands into Ecoparks. 9.10 Has your country made efforts to conserve small wetlands in line with Resolution XIII.21 and XIII.15? {9.9} A=Yes

9.10 Additional information

>>> All wetlands in Uganda are managed as part of complex wetland systems comprising of all the tributaries until they drain into the drainage basins. This is regardless of the size of wetlands because of the interconnectivity of these wetlands. This then takes into consideration small wetlands and wetland tributaries.

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? $\square B = No$

10.1 Additional Information

>>> Legislation is not available.

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?

 $\square B = No$

10.2 Additional Information

>>> The guiding principles are not in place however the country recognizes certain cultural values attached to wetlands including totems of some cultural clans and many other uses. More research needs to be undertaken to inform this.

10.3 Have case studies on the participation of indigenous people in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands been compiled? (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21) $\{10.1\}$ ☑ A=Yes

10.3 Additional information

>>> One case study was undertaken on Wamala wetland and preliminary results indicate communities respect cultural attachments to wetlands more that the laws.

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

10.4 Additional information

If "yes" please list national legislation/policies and actions that consider the needs and participation of indigenous and local communities in wetland management at all relevant levels.

>>> There is still inadequate and scattered information on the subject that need further understanding.

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

10.5 Additional information

>>> some small-scale work has been done but needs to be scaled up across the country.

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 >>> Some assessments have been undertaken for specific wetlands including Ramsar sites for example SAMUKA Ramsar site, Nabugabo Ramsar site, Sezzibwa among many others.

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

11.2 Additional information

>>> The National Wetland restoration project and Building resilient communities and ecosystems project that have a livelihood component for wetland dependent communities have been implemented where water retention facilities have been constructed, small scale irrigation promoted, fishponds established and stocked plus alternatives provided to communities.

11.3 Since COP14 have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to other benefits for human wellbeing been implemented? ☑ A=Yes

11.3 Additional Information

>>> Wetland programs have been promoted including support to ecotourism, restoration projects to control storm water and for water purification, promotion of alternative livelihood options such as apiary and livestock rearing.

11.4 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? $\{11.3\}$ \square A=Yes

11.4 Additional information

If "yes" or "partially", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names >>> The management plans integrate socio-economic analysis and therefore values generated are considered in the plan execution examples include Nabugabo Ramsar site, SAMUKA Ramsar site, Mabamba Bay Ramsar site and Lutembe Bay Ramsar site.

11.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands in general? $\{11.4\}$ \square A=Yes

11.5 Additional information

>>> Wetlands including Ramsar site have cultural attachments and these issues are captured during management planning process.

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? $\ensuremath{\square}$ A=Yes

12.1 Additional Information

>>> The Department has established restoration targets that have also been captured in the National policies such as Vision 2040 and the National Development plans. The target is to restore 9881Km2 of wetlands by 2040.

12.2 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {12.1} \square A=Yes

12.2 Additional information

If "yes", please provide a list of sites, specifying wetland types >>> Wetlands Department undertakes country wide mapping of wetlands aimed at identifying degraded wetlands and also assess the trends of wetlands. From this exercise, hot spot areas targeted for restoration have been mapped.

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

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	1000	150	300
Human-made	N/A	N/A	N/A

12.3 Additional information

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

>>> According to Uganda's vision, the Ministry has a target to restore 9881Km2 of wetland area by 2040. The figure was based on the 2015 mapping of wetlands where it was discovered that out of the total wetland coverage, 9881km2 was under some form of encroachment mostly by agriculture.

Therefore, the Ministry makes annual plans with a phased target for restoration and the figure indicated above is the target for the next 5 years of the National Development Plan 4. Since the last COP 300km2 of wetland has been restored and 150Km2 is still ongoing work up to mid 2025.

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

>>> Peatland probability mapping was undertaken for the Nile equatorial region under the Nile Basin and this generated information for Uganda. The country has embarked on peatland assessment in collaboration with academia and research institutions starting with pilot sites where it is collecting data on peat depth and emissions with the aim of calculating the carbon stock among others.

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

>>> The Wetlands Department is consulted when high impact sectors are planning activities that are most likely to have a significant impact on wetlands.

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

13.2 Additional information

>>> Any development that is proposed in wetlands is subjected to scrutiny as provided for by the National Environment Act and the EIA regulations prior to issuance of wetland permits. This has been undertaken in the agricultural sector, oil and gas sector, infrastructure and mining.

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}

13.3 Additional information

>>> This is well provided for in the National Environment Act 2019, where a list of activities that require EIAs is provided and those that are exempt (Traditional and non-destructive uses).

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. >>> It is currently hosting the Ramsar Center for Eastern for Eastern Africa.

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? $\{15.2\}$ \square A=Yes

15.2 Additional information

If "yes", please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s).

>>> Uganda has been involved in developing the curriculum for training wetland managers that has been supported by Wetlands International.

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 Wetlands Department has recently revised its CEPA strategy and also included an action plan to operationalize the CEPA strategy. Management of wetlands in the country has been decentralized to local governments and each district has an action plan for managing wetlands including actions on CEPA. Awareness and education programs have also been incorporated in the Ministry's annual plans.

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

 \square E=# centres

>>> 4

b) at other wetlands \square E=# centres

»» 3

16.2 Additional information

>>> Four centres at the following Ramsar sites have been established- Nabugabo, Bisina,Opeta and Mabamba. Other wetlands such as Kyojja, Bigodi also have education centres.

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

□ D=Planned
 □ C=Partially
 □ B=No
 ☑ A=Yes

16.3 Additional information

>>> Data collection for designation of Ramsar sites is supported by various stakeholders including communities, NGOs and CSOs. Before a wetland is designated as a Ramsar site, consultations are undertaken at different levels including local district and National levels. The proposed site is the submitted to the Administrative Authority by the Local government for consideration. The AA then submits the proposed site to the Secretariat though the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The wetland management planning process is community led, participatory and all-inclusive and only facilitated by the technical teams.

16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral national Ramsar/wetlands committee? {16.4} \square A=Yes

16.4 Additional information

>>> Wetland Advisory Group which also doubles as a Ramsar Committee with membership from different sectors including Private Sector and NGOs

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

>>> The wetlands advisory group also doubles as a Wetland technical working group. But different projects also provide for technical working groups. There is also a program working group and a sub program working group for Environment, climate and Natural resources.

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

>>> Through the Programme working groups and the sub- program working groups which bring together development partners and cross sectoral representatives, information on the Ramsar convention is shared. Several forums such as regional workshops and meetings with local governments are also avoilable to disseminate infomation.

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

16.7 Additional information

>>> Since 1994 the country celebrates a National world wetlands day every year with teh last one held in Gulu city this year (2024). In addition, Local governments and NGOs involved in wetland management have been organizing celebrations.

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} \square A=Yes

16.8 Additional information

>>> Different activities are organised in three stages ie pre- World Wetlands Day celebrations, during and post world wetlands day

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)? $\{18.5\}$ \square A=Yes

16.9 Additional Information

>>> Through the Ramsar handbook

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} \square Z=Not Applicable

17.2 Additional information >>> M/A

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

17.3 Additional information

for example from which countries or agencies >>> From Global Environment Facility and GIZ.

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

17.4 Additional information

If "yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities.

>>> Government is supporting the implementation of the National Wetlands Restoration Project and also Cofinancing the GCF project.

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

18.1 Additional information

>>> All MEAs that have a bearing on wetland management are invited to participate in wetlands committee meetings.

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}

18.2 Additional information

>>> Although engagements exist between the Ramsar AA and some of the organizations above, there is need to strengthen the collaboration for wetlands support and management.

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	\checkmark
b) FAO	$\mathbf{\nabla}$
c) UNECE	
d) UNFCCC	$\overline{}$
e) Global Environment Facility	
f) UNDP	\checkmark
g) UNESCO	$\overline{\mathbf{Y}}$
h) World Health Organization	
i) World Meteorological Organization	
ј) ІТТО	
k) The Convention's IOPs	

18.3 Additional information

For example describe the support and indicate the amount of funding. >>> Prior to COP and after, collaborations have continued with the agencies/bodies ticked above. However, the Administrative Authority has ongoing MoUs with all the partners above.

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} \square A=Yes

18.4 Additional information

>>> With the Support of RAMCEA, a twinning exercise was held in 2023 between Kenya and Uganda (L. Naivasha, Nakuru, Elmenteita and Mabamba, Lutembe Ramsar sites). A second twinning exercise is being organized between Uganda and Rwanda and will also incorporate South Sudan for learning purposes.

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

18.5 Additional information

>>> All have been identified and management plans developed. They include Sango bay Minziro, Semliki and Sio siteko.

18.6 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared

river basins and coastal zones)? {18.7} ☑ C=Partially

18.6 Additional information

>>> There is cooperation between the countries that is being supported by RAMCEA and Nile Basin Initiative. However, there is need to increase joint planning, resource mobilization and implementation of actions that affect the transboundary systems.

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 Country participates in different initiatives for wetland migratory species including the convention of migratory species.

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 Additional information

>>> Needs assessments has been undertaken but not nationally due to resource limitations. It is however planned to spread to other regions that were not assessed.

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

19.2 Additional Information

>>> Capacity building is undertaken for local governments, NGOs and private sector and all entities that are involved in implementation of the convention or could be affected by the actions of the strategic plan.

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

>>> Whereas some content right from primary, secondary and University level covers some aspects of wetlands. The content is shallow and plans are underway to have such content updated. The country still lacks a standalone course on wetlands in its tertiary institutions.

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

 \square F=Fewer than #

»» 3

b) at other wetlands

☑ F=Fewer than #

»» 8

19.4 Additional information

>>> Every year training forms part of the annual workplan for wetland management targeting improving capacity for local governments to managae wetlands..

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 reports provide information for continuous monitoring and baselines for next reporting.

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

☑ A=High

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Resourcing \square C=Limiting

Target 1: Wetland benefits - National Targets >>> To increase wetlands coverage to 13% of the total land coverage by 2040

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Planned activity >>> Restore degraded wetland areas and protect intact wetlands

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Additional Information >>> The targets will be achieved through increased participation of the wetland resource users.

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

☑ A=High

Target 2: Water Use - Resourcing ☑ B=Adequate

Target 2: Water Use - National Targets >>> By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all"

Target 2: Water Use - Planned activity >>> Carry out hydrological, hydrogeological, water quality and socio-economic surveys for the purposes of planning and development of water resources.

Target 2: Water Use - Additional Information

>>> Water resources are managed using integrated water resources management approach through catchment based planning.

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

☑ C=Low

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Resourcing \square D=Severely limiting

Target 3: Public and private sectors - National Targets >>> Little has been done in this area,

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Planned activity >>> Limited information in this area.

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Additional Information >>> There is need to develop clear guidelines for public private partnership for wetland conservation.

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 ☑ B=Adequate

Target 4: Invasive alien species - National Targets >>> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Planned activity >>> . Management Plans in place to control most threatening invasive alien species

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Additional Information >>> More research is being undertaken to establish the negative impacts of invasive species on natural ecosystems and habitats.

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 \square C=Limiting

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - National Targets >>> By 2025 Develop a comprehensive strategy for monitoring and reporting on the ecological character of all Ramsar site

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Planned activity >>> Collect baseline information/research to inform the strategy

have a negative impact on the ecological character of these sites.

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Additional Information >>> There are a number of interventions that are currently taking place around and within wetlands specifically Ramsar sites but due to limited resources most them are not being captured and yet they are most likely to

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

☑ A=High

Target 7: Sites at risk - Resourcing \square C=Limiting

Target 7: Sites at risk - National Targets >>> Lake George to be removed for the Montreux Record by 2025

Target 7: Sites at risk - Planned activity >>> Finalize Lake George report

Target 7: Sites at risk - Additional Information >>> Lake George Ramsar site has been on the montreux record for sometime and the government is making all efforts to remove it.

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 ☑ D=Severely limiting

Target 8: National wetland inventories - National Targets >>> Update the National Wetland Inventory by 2030 as captured in the 4th National Devolpment Plan 2025-2030

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Planned activity >>> Resource mobilization

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Additional Information

>>> The 1st detailed National Wetland Inventory was undertaken in 1994 and since then, a number of things have changed hence the need for update.

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

☑ A=High

Target 9: Wise Use - Resourcing \square C=Limiting

Target 9: Wise Use - National Targets >>> Promote wise use of Uganda's wetlands by 2030

Target 9: Wise Use - Planned activity >>> Finalize the update of the wetlands policy and bill

Target 9: Wise Use - Additional Information >>> Policy was developed in 1995 and currently under review.

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

☑ A=High

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Resourcing ☑ D=Severely limiting

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - National Targets >>> N/A

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Planned activity >>> N/A

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Additional Information >>> Little has been done in this area and yet it very critical to wetland conservation.

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

☑ A=High

Target 11: Wetland functions - Resourcing \square C=Limiting

Target 11: Wetland functions - National Targets >>> Protect and restore 30, hectares of degraded wetlands by 2030

Target 11: Wetland functions - Planned activity >>> Restoration, demarcation of wetland boundaries and development of management plans.

Target 11: Wetland functions - Additional Information >>> Once degraded areas are restored to lost functions will be reinstated

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 \square C=Limiting

Target 12: Restoration - National Targets >>> Restore 30,000 hectares by 2030

Target 12: Restoration - Planned activity >>> Restoration of degraded wetland areas.

Target 12: Restoration - Additional Information >>> Restoration of degraded ecosystems including wetlands is among the key priorities of government between 2025 and 2030

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 $\ensuremath{\square}$ C=Limiting

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - National Targets >>> Increasing sustainable use of wetlands by 2030

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Planned activity >>> Integrating wetland management actions into different sector plans

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Additional Information >>> Wetland actions are over time being integrated into plans and policies of other sector including Agriculture, mining, infrastructure and land management.

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

☑ A=High

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Resourcing ☑ D=Severely limiting

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - National Targets >>> To create a regional centre of excellence for cooperation, capacity development and sustainable wetland management"

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Planned activity >>> Increase awareness among partner sates about the benefits of RAMCEA

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Additional Information >>> The overall goal of RAMCEA is to have a "well coordinated, strengthened and networked institutions for wise use and conservation of wetlands in the East African region"

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

☑ A=High

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Resourcing $\ensuremath{\square}$ C=Limiting

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - National Targets >>> Wetland protected from further degradation by 2030

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Planned activity >>> Development of Community Based Wetland Management Plans

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Additional Information >>> Management plans are developed with full participation of the users. Based on the plan, non-wetland degrading activities are undertaken by communities.

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 $\ensuremath{\square}$ C=Limiting

Target 17: Financial and other resources - National Targets >>> Secure United States Dollars 100 million by 2030 for restoring and protecting wetland ecosystems

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Planned activity >>> Establishment of networks and partnerships for resource mobilization

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Additional Information >>> The government of Uganda has developed a 10 year natural resources restoration action plan and the wetlands component will require USD 100 million.

Target 18: International cooperation

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.

Target 18: International cooperation - Resourcing \square C=Limiting

Target 18: International cooperation - National Targets >>> Ensure effective management of the three transbounday wetlands by 2030

Target 18: International cooperation - Planned activity >>> Resource mobilization to support trans boundary activities.

Target 18: International cooperation - Additional Information

>>> Initial efforts have been undertaken to improve management of the three trans boundary wetlands including development of trans-boundary investment and management plans This has been done between Uganda and Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya and Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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

☑ A=High

Target 19: Capacity Building - Resourcing \square D=Severely limiting

Target 19: Capacity Building - National Targets >>> Train 100 wetland managers buy 2030

Target 19: Capacity Building - Planned activity >>> Develop a 5 year capacity building strategy

Target 19: Capacity Building - Additional Information >>> There is limited capacity in wetland management at different levels including National, District and community levels.