



## 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands

**“Protecting wetlands for our common future”  
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**COP15 Doc.8.1**





### **Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention: Global implementation**

#### **Introduction**

1. The present report covers the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands from the close of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14) in November 2022 to the end of March 2025. It is published in accordance with Rules 9.a and 26.3 of the Rules of Procedure. The Secretariat's activities under its Work Plan are detailed in document COP15 Doc.8.2.
2. Implementation of the Convention is guided by the Fourth Strategic Plan 2016-2024 (SP4), which encompasses four goals and 19 targets<sup>1</sup>. This report summarizes progress made towards the targets, primarily based on the 35 indicators defined in SP4 and with supplementary information where available, using data from National Reports submitted by Contracting Parties.
3. This report is based on an analysis of 112 National Reports submitted to COP15 through the online reporting system by the end of the reporting period, including 30 submitted by Contracting Parties in Africa, 20 by Parties in Asia, 41 by Parties in Europe, 17 by Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, two by Parties in North America and two by Parties in Oceania. This represents an overall response rate of 65%, a significant decline from 88% at COP13 and 71% at COP14. National Reports received are available on the Convention website at:  
[https://www.ramsar.org/search?f%5B0%5D=document\\_type%3A2904&f%5B1%5D=search\\_date%3A2025&f%5B2%5D=search\\_item\\_type%3Adocuments](https://www.ramsar.org/search?f%5B0%5D=document_type%3A2904&f%5B1%5D=search_date%3A2025&f%5B2%5D=search_item_type%3Adocuments).
4. Trends in implementation over the duration of SP4 are presented using the 374 National Reports submitted by Contracting Parties for COP13, COP14 and COP15, based on the indicators and against the baselines defined in SP4. Implementation trends are illustrated using simple trend graphs:

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/4th-strategic-plan-2016-2024-2022-update>.

	Depicts a generally positive trend compared to baseline
	Depicts a generally negative trend compared to baseline
	Depicts no change compared to baseline or no clear trend
	Gray line indicates baseline

5. Indicators for Targets 10 and 13 were not included in SP4 or subsequently developed and adopted. For these Targets data is presented based on relevant questions in the National Report form, using responses in National Reports submitted for COP12 as baseline. Percentages presented are calculated based on submissions received, to represent the overall progress in implementation.
6. It should be noted that some inconsistencies in data from National Reports arise, for example due to variations in the number of Contracting Parties submitting National Reports for each COP, varying levels of detail provided in responses by individual Parties, and as a result of changes to indicator questions in the National Reporting form for different COPs. This presents some challenges for analysis and interpretation of trends. Some considerations relevant to the preparation of the indicator framework of the Fifth Strategic Plan for 2025-2034 are provided in the concluding section.
7. Contributions to implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are noted for each Target.<sup>2</sup> A brief summary on gender and youth is provided pursuant to Resolution XIII.18 on *Gender and Wetlands* and Resolution XIV.12 on *Strengthening Ramsar connections through youth*. A summary of implementation progress, challenges and priorities for future implementation is provided in the concluding section.
8. Voluntary reporting on national targets is synthesized in Annex 1 to the present report.

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<sup>2</sup> Based on Annexes 2 and 3 of SP4; see also document COP15 Doc.15 *Report of the Secretariat on opportunities to further strengthen the Convention's contribution to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals*.




## Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

**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.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Target 14 and SDG Targets 1.b, 2.4, 6.1, 6.2, 6.5, 8.3, 8.9, 11.3, 11.4, 11.a, 11.b, 13.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.c and 15.9.

### Key message

9. Consideration of wetland benefits in national sectoral policies, strategies and plans is generally increasing. More progress has been made in strategies and plans related to biodiversity and water management, whereas a lower proportion of Contracting Parties report integration of wetland considerations in strategies and plans for some other sectors with significant impact on wetlands.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
% of Parties that have made assessment of ecosystem services of Wetlands of International Importance.	19%	24%	32%	22%	
% of Parties that have included wetland issues within national strategies and planning processes such as water resource management and water efficiency plans.	70%	59%	66%	71%	
% of Parties that have included wetland issues within national policies or measures on agriculture.	47%	48%	44%	53%	

### Summary of progress

10. Progress has been most consistent in the water and biodiversity sectors, which align closely with wetland conservation goals. Over 80% of Contracting Parties report consideration of wetlands in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and over 70% in water resource management and water efficiency plans. Sixty-three percent of Parties report consideration of wetlands in forest management plans or strategies, up from 50% at COP13.
11. Integration of wetland protection, wise use and restoration is lower in strategies, plans and measures for sectors with a significant impact on wetlands. At COP15, just over half of Contracting Parties report consideration of wetlands in national policies or measures on agriculture and in national plans for pollution control and management, a slight increase over the term of SP4. Consideration of wetlands in relation to urban development increased from 31% of Parties reporting to COP13 to 41% of Parties reporting to COP15, and in relation to wastewater management and water quality from 50% at COP13 to 63% at COP15. Progress is more variable and generally lower in relation to other sectors such as infrastructure, industry, energy and mining, with around one third of Parties reporting some actions for consideration of wetlands in sectoral policies and plans, and around one third planning to do so.


12. Regarding measures that may support mainstreaming of wetlands in sectoral strategies and plans, around 60% of Contracting Parties have a national wetland policy or equivalent instrument that promotes the wise use of wetlands, a figure that has remained relatively stable during the term of SP4. Around 70% of Parties have made full or partial assessments of ecosystem benefits and services provided by Wetlands of International Importance and other wetlands.
13. Common barriers to enhanced consideration of wetlands in sectoral strategies and plans include governance challenges, weak coordination among institutions and across sectors, and economic conditions. Implementation is constrained by limited enforcement capacity, especially at subnational levels. Contracting Parties in Africa frequently cited limited enforcement capacity and resource constraints as major obstacles. Parties in Asia reported challenges linked to competing or conflicting conservation and development objectives.
14. Potential measures to further advance consideration of wetlands in sectoral policies identified by Contracting Parties in National Reports include better valuation of wetlands and their ecosystem services, promotion of inter-ministerial cooperation, and provision of technical support.

**Target 2. 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.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Targets 7 and 10 and SDG Targets 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6.

#### Key message

15. Measures towards ensuring that water use respects wetland ecosystem needs have increased slightly. Modest progress has been made in relation to integrating wetland considerations into water resource management and water efficiency plans and in the use of environmental flow assessments. The Convention's guidelines are increasingly used and disseminated, and there is a notable increase in project interventions that demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
% of Parties that have included wetland issues within national strategies and planning processes such as water resource management and water efficiency plans.	70%	59%	66%	71%	

#### Summary of progress

16. As of COP15, 33% of Contracting Parties report that they have used the Convention's guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands in decision-making processes, with a further 38% reporting partial use. This is notably lower in Africa and Oceania than in other regions. Over 80% of Parties have brought these guidelines to the attention of at least some relevant ministries and agencies.
17. 30% of Contracting Parties report that they have undertaken assessment of environmental flows in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands, with a further 45% having done so partially, a modest increase over the past three triennia.





18. There is a significant increase in projects that demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management, reported by 44% of Contracting Parties at COP13 and 65% of Parties at COP15. Constructed wetlands are also increasingly used for wastewater treatment, though adoption varies by country and depends on factors such as cost, infrastructural requirements and feasibility.
19. Barriers identified include limited technical capacity, funding constraints, and weak inter-sectoral coordination. A need for further financial support and targeted capacity-building was identified, for example in relation to environmental flow assessments and constructed wetlands. Several Contracting Parties noted that existing guidelines are not consistently applied at the local level, and identified a need for further development of systems to track policy implementation on the ground.

**Target 3. Public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Targets 7, 10, 15, 16 and 18; and SDG Targets 2.3, 2.5, 3.9, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.a, 6.b, 8.4, 9.1, 9.5, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 12.2, 12.6, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5, 14.7, 14.b, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6 and 15.7.

Key message

20. More than three quarters of Contracting Parties have operational cross-sectoral national wetland committees or equivalent. There is some progress in the removal of incentives that lead to degradation and loss of wetlands in favour of incentives and policies that encourage the private sector to apply wise use principles, but many Parties note challenges related to governance, coordination, and economic interests.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
% of Parties reporting actions taken to implement incentive measures that encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands.	50%	52%	54%	54%	
% of Parties reporting actions taken to remove perverse incentive measures that discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands.	37%	37%	38%	43%	
% of Parties reporting private sector undertaking activities for the conservation, wise use and management of wetlands in general.	60%	41%	45%	45%	
% of Parties having national Ramsar Committees that include both governmental and non-governmental representation.*	63%	49%	46%	46%	

\*there is no question specifically addressing the indicator in the National Report form. Data presented is percentage of Contracting Parties that have an operational cross-sectoral national Ramsar/wetland committee or equivalent.

### Summary of progress



21. 46% of Contracting Parties have an operational cross-sectoral national Ramsar/wetland committee, and a further 31% have an equivalent body – a slight increase over the past three triennia.
22. As of COP15, 54% of Contracting Parties report taking actions to implement incentive measures that encourage the private sector to apply wise use principles. This is slightly above the baseline of 50%, with higher rates reported among Parties in Europe and in Latin America and the Caribbean than in other regions. There is a 9% increase in Parties that report doing so partially, and relatively more in Africa and Asia. Actions to remove perverse incentives which lead to degradation and loss of wetland have increased to 43% of Parties, from the baseline of 37%, but there is a reduction in Parties that report plans to do so, from 21% to 15%. However, there is a general decrease in the percentage of Contracting Parties that put in place policies, including incentives, guidelines or other instruments, to encourage the private sector to apply wise use principles, from 45% at COP12 to 36% at COP15.
23. As of COP15, 45% of Contracting Parties report that actions have been taken by the private sector to apply wise use principles for wetlands in general – this represents no change since COP13 and is well below the baseline of 60%. The percentage is slightly higher, at 50%, for Wetlands of International Importance.
24. Narrative responses in National Reports have become more detailed over time, with increased focus on implementation of a range of activities including pilot projects, legal reforms, training, and stakeholder engagement. There is a shift from philanthropic contributions to fund wetland protection and management, towards more structured partnerships and co-management models. The many concrete examples provided by Parties suggests an expanding role for the private sector, though broader support is needed to scale these models.
25. While some reforms have been undertaken, many Contracting Parties face persistent obstacles, including in relation to limited technical capacity. Addressing harmful incentives is a systemic challenge requiring policy and institutional shifts in the face of fragmented governance, weak coordination, and entrenched economic interests. Parties indicate that advancing implementation will require strengthened technical and administrative capacity, targeted financial support, clear mechanisms to monitor and enforce policies, promoting integrated approaches that blend regulation, incentives and community awareness, and development of appropriate guidance.

**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.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Target 6 and SDG Target 15.8.

### Key message

26. There is significant progress in the development of national policies and guidelines for invasive alien species (IAS) control and management as well as in the creation of national inventories of IAS that may impact wetlands. Monitoring and assessment of the effectiveness of IAS control programmes remains low, albeit increasing.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
% of Parties that have established or reviewed national policies or guidelines on invasive wetland species control and management.	36	26%	42%	54%	
% of Parties having a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands.	34	40%	42%	52%	

### Summary of progress

27. As of COP15, 52% of Contracting Parties report having national inventories of IAS, and 54% have established policies or guidelines on IAS control and management relevant to wetlands, a significant increase from the respective baselines of 20% and 36%.
28. No Contracting Party has reported successfully controlling high-risk IAS through management actions. Only 18% have assessed the effectiveness of their wetland IAS control programmes, although this represents a significant increase since COP13.
29. Progress varies across regions. Over 60% of Contracting Parties report having policies for IAS and inventories of IAS in Oceania, Asia and Europe. Fewer Parties in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean have IAS inventories, and policies or guidelines on IAS control and management are limited especially in Africa.
30. Across all regions, challenges remain in assessing ecological outcomes. Over 80% of Contracting Parties providing narrative information in National Reports note the need to improve monitoring and evaluation frameworks, complete national inventories of IAS and further develop data systems. More than a third of Parties in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean highlight a need for increased technical and financial support.





## **Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Network of Wetlands of International Importance**

**Target 5. The ecological character of Wetlands of International Importance is maintained or restored through effective planning and integrated management.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Targets 3, 4 and 5 and SDG Targets 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 11.3, 11.4, 11.a, 11.b, 13.1, 14.2, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3 and 15.4.

### Key message

31. Overall the status of the ecological character of Wetlands of International Importance has remained relatively unchanged during the term of SP4. National Reports suggest there is an increase in the number of Wetlands of International Importance under effective management, but management effectiveness assessments are implemented only for some Sites. A very large proportion of Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) are out of date.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
Number of Ramsar Sites that have effective, implemented management plans*	57%	63%	79%	73%	
Number of Ramsar Sites that have effective, implemented management planning (not in the context of a formal management plan). <sup>3</sup>	Not available	23%	21%	26%	
% of Parties that have made assessments of effective management of Ramsar Sites. <sup>4</sup>	27%	29%	30%	29%	
% of Ramsar Sites that have updated Ramsar Information Sheets.	43%	31%	25%	26%	

\*presented as a percentage instead of an absolute number, accounting for differences in reporting rate and different total number of Sites at different COPs.

### Summary of progress

32. The number of Wetlands of International Importance that have effective, implemented management plans has increased significantly over the baseline. Accounting for differences in reporting rate and different total number of Sites at different COPs, it is estimated that three quarters of Sites have effective, implemented management plans as of COP15. For Sites without a formal management plan, there is a slight increase in the proportion of Sites under effective management, although the absolute number has seen a moderate decrease.
33. However, less than a third of Contracting Parties have assessed management effectiveness of all their Wetlands of International Importance. Around 40% of Parties have conducted partial assessments and many report planning of management effectiveness assessments. Globally there has been little change in these figures over the past three triennia, but the proportion of Parties that have assessed management effectiveness of Wetlands of International Importance has increased in Asia and Oceania while declining in other regions over the same period.
34. Local stakeholders are increasingly involved in the selection of Wetlands of International Importance and in Site management. Over 70% of Contracting Parties report such involvement as of COP15, up from just over half at the start of the term of SP4. Parties in Africa and Asia in particular highlighted strong community-level engagement in their narrative responses in National Reports to COP15.
35. As of COP15, around 60% of Contracting Parties report no change in the ecological character of Wetlands of International Importance and 16% report a deterioration. These figures have remained relatively unchanged over the past triennia. However, there is a reduction in Parties reporting that status has improved, down to 13% as of COP15.

<sup>3</sup> Actions for appropriate wetland management that are not necessarily in the context of a formal management plan – Resolution VIII.14

<sup>4</sup> Baseline is based on COP12 national report question “Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made?”. As of COP13 the question was slightly modified to read “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)?”.






36. Progress in updating RIS remains limited. Between COP12 and COP15, 505 updates were completed. As of the end of the COP15 reporting period, 74% of Sites (1,872 of 2,535) have not been updated in over six years.<sup>5</sup>
37. Contracting Parties consistently cite financial and technical capacity gaps, along with fragmented governance, as key barriers. Key recommendations to strengthen the management effectiveness of Wetlands of International Importance include: increased financial support, particularly for regions with significant funding gaps; targeted capacity building through region-specific training and technical assistance; strengthening of governance and improvement in coordination across sectors and administrative levels; promotion of participatory, community-based management; and development of adaptive strategies to address ecological pressures, and especially climate change.

**Target 6: There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Wetlands of International Importance network in particular under-represented types of wetlands including in under-represented ecoregions and transboundary sites.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Targets 3, 4 and 12 and SDG Targets 6.5, 6.6, 11.3, 11.4, 11.a, 11.b, 13.1, 14.2, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3 and 15.4.

#### Key message

38. The network of Wetlands of International Importance has grown both in terms of the number of Sites and the total area, although the rate of growth seems to have slowed since COP14. Many recent designations include under-represented wetland types.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	
Number of Ramsar Sites that have been designated.	2,188	2,314	2,439	2,535	
Total hectares of Ramsar Sites that have been designated.	208.4 million ha	242.4 million ha	254.7 million ha	257.9 million ha	
Number of Transboundary Ramsar Sites that have been designated.	16	20	22	23	

Note: Data from National Reports and RSIS

#### Summary of progress

39. Since COP12, 221 new Wetlands of International Importance have been added to the List, and as of the end of the COP15 reporting period the global total number of Sites is 2,535, covering

<sup>5</sup> For details see document COP15 Doc.9 *Report of the Secretariat pursuant to Article 8.2 on the List of Wetlands of International Importance* at <https://www.ramsar.org/document/cop15-doc9-report-secretariat-pursuant-article-82-list-wetlands-international-importance>.

257,924,380 hectares. This represents a 16% increase in number and a 24% increase in area since COP12. The rate of new designations has gradually decreased during the term of SP4.

40. Based on data from the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS), the regional breakdown of number of Sites and area coverage is as follows:
- Africa: 17% of the total number of Sites, covering 43% of the total area;
  - Asia: 18% of the total number of Sites, covering 9% of the total area;
  - Europe: 45% of the total number of Sites, covering 11% of the total area;
  - Latin America and the Caribbean: 9% of the total number of Sites, covering 24% of the total area;
  - North America: 9% of the total number of Sites, covering 9% of the total area; and
  - Oceania: 3% of the total number of Sites, covering 4% of the total area.
41. Many Wetlands of International Importance added to the List during the term of SP4 include under-represented wetland types among the eight types identified in Resolution VIII.11 on *Additional guidance for identifying and designating underrepresented wetland types as Wetlands of International Importance*, as summarized in Table 1 below.

*Table 1: Under-represented wetland types designated as Wetlands of International Importance during the term of the fourth Strategic Plan*

<b>Wetland type</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>COP15</b>
Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	110	150
Coral reefs	96	116
Wet grasslands*	517	-
Peatlands (including forested peatlands)	564	880
Sea-grass beds	249	301
Mangroves	280	317
Temporary Pools*	729	-
Bivalve (shellfish) reefs **	99	11

\* “Wet grasslands” and “temporary pools” do not correspond to specific wetland types under the Convention’s Classification System for Wetland Type and it is not clear what wetland types were considered when calculating the baselines contained in SP4. A current figure comparable to the baseline can therefore not be provided. It should be noted that a very large proportion of Wetlands of International Importance contain at least one and often several of the wetland types that commonly encompass “wet grasslands” and “temporary pools” identified in Resolution VIII.11.

\*\* Bivalve (shellfish) reefs are a specific wetland type (Ga). There are currently 11 Wetlands of International Importance with this wetland type. The baseline defined in SP4 may be an error, as it is unlikely this wetland type has been removed from the RIS for many individual Sites during RIS updates.





42. While there is notable progress in the designation of Wetlands of International Importance, including of Sites with under-represented wetland types, only 39% of Contracting Parties have a national strategy and priorities for further designation of Wetlands of International Importance as of COP15, a slight decrease since COP13. A further 39% report that this is done partially, or planned.

**Target 7. Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Targets 3, 4 and 10 and SDG Targets 6.5, 6.6, 11.3, 11.4, 11.a, 11.b, 12.4, 13.1, 14.2, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3 and 15.4

***Key message***

43. The majority of Contracting Parties have mechanisms in place to be informed of negative change in the ecological character of Wetlands of International Importance, pursuant to Article 3.2 of the Convention. However, reporting on progress in addressing such cases is limited, and the Montreux Record is underutilized.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
Number of Ramsar Sites removed from the Montreux Record (presented as total number of Sites on the Record).	47	47	46	46	
% of Parties reporting to the Secretariat all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites pursuant to Article 3.2.	21%	21%	23%	19%	
Number of Ramsar Sites reported by Parties to the Secretariat of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites pursuant to Article 3.2.	144	168	151	177	
% of Parties that have taken actions to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record.	16%	16%	21%	-	

***Summary of progress***

44. All Wetlands of International Importance face at least one of ten identified threats. The most reported include pollution (15%), biological resource use (14%), agriculture (12%), and encroachment due to human settlements (10%). These threats frequently interact, compounding their effects.
45. At COP15, 79% of Contracting Parties report having mechanisms for Administrative Authorities to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Wetlands of International Importance. This is a modest increase from the baseline. In Europe over 90% of Parties have such mechanisms in place, in other regions between 70% and 80%.
46. “Article 3.2” files for 71 Sites have been closed during the past three triennia. As of COP15 there are 177 open Article 3.2 files, an increase from 151 as of COP14. Eighty-eight of them have not received updates since 2019, and a further 35 have not been updated since 2023.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> For details see document COP15 Doc.9 *Report of the Secretariat pursuant to Article 8.2 on the List of Wetlands of International Importance* at <https://www Ramsar.org/document/cop15-doc9-report-secretariat-pursuant-article-82-list-wetlands-international-importance>.

47. The number of third-party reports of changes to the ecological character of Wetlands of International Importance received during each triennium has varied between 56 and 74, and there has been a slight increase in the rate at which Contracting Parties confirm third-party reports.
48. Over the past three triennia only one Wetland of International Importance has been removed from the Montreux Record, which now includes 46 Sites. Few Contracting Parties have reported taking actions to address issues for which Sites have been listed on the Record.



### Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands

**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.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 21; and SDG Targets 6.6, 11.4, 14.5 and 15.1.

#### Key message

49. While an increasing number of Contracting Parties provide data on the extent of wetlands in National Reports, little progress has been made in the development and updating of national wetland inventories (NWIs). Many Parties report incomplete inventories, infrequent updates, and limited public accessibility of wetland data. This constrains the use of NWI in promoting conservation and effective management of wetlands, as well as in reporting under the Convention and against other global goals and targets.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
% of Parties that have complete national wetland inventories.	47%	44%	46%	47%	
% of Parties that have updated their national inventories in the last decade.	Not available*	29%	33%	32%	

\*Baseline not defined in SP4, question added to National Report form from COP13

#### Summary of progress

50. At COP15, 47% of Contracting Parties reported having an NWI, the same level as the baseline established in SP4. Similarly, the percentage of Parties reporting that development of a NWI is in progress has remained virtually unchanged at just under 30%. However, there is an increase in Parties planning development of a NWI, at 11% as of COP15, up from 5% at the start of the term of SP4. A third of Parties with a NWI report having updated it in the last decade, and a fifth report that an update is in progress. Just over half of Parties make NWI data and information publicly available, and a further fifth make it partially available.
51. There are notable differences between regions. The proportion of Contracting Parties with NWI is highest in Asia at 65%, in most other regions it is around 50%, and it is notably lower in Africa at 33%.
52. The proportion of Contracting Parties reporting a specific figure for the extent of wetlands in square kilometres based on NWI has increased notably, up from 31% at COP13 to 56% at COP15. However, 30% of Parties report extent of wetland area as unknown; this proportion

has remained largely the same over three triennia. For COP15, only 31 Parties provide wetland extent data for the two main wetland types (inland and human-made) that are requested for SDG Indicator 6.6.1. Five Parties report using the area of their Wetlands of International Importance as a proxy for wetland extent.



53. Limited progress in development of NWI has several implications. Varying detail and precision in reporting on wetland extent limits the ability to track implementation of the Convention, as well as measurement of change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time for SDG Indicator 6.6.1, for which the Convention is a co-custodian<sup>7</sup>. Furthermore, the potential benefits of NWI for national wetland monitoring and assessment, planning and decision-making, as well as for implementation and tracking progress towards other global targets such as those of the KM-GBF, are not realized.
54. Many Contracting Parties still lack the capacity to develop, maintain or regularly update NWI. Frequently cited challenges include limited or outdated data, limited technical capacity, policy or institutional constraints, and limited financial means. Parties identified a need for recommended standard inventory formats to reduce initial complexity of NWI and to enhance data quality, establishment of mechanisms for regular updates including enhanced access to data, strengthening of digital infrastructure, including to improve public access, and significant scaling up of technical support.
55. The Secretariat's NWI support mechanism to Contracting Parties<sup>8</sup> contributes to addressing some of these barriers. In Decision SC64-19 the Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to expand this support through additional partnerships, training and resource mobilization.

**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.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Targets 1, 9, 10 and 15; and SDG Targets 1.4, 5.a, 6.5, 8.4, 11.b, 14.7 and 14.c.

#### Key message

56. There is steady global progress in promoting the wise use of wetlands through integrated resource management, including on the basis of wetland policies or equivalent instruments, amendment of legislation or policies, and new plans and projects.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
% of Parties that have adopted wetland policies or equivalent instruments that promote the wise use of their wetlands.	55%	52%	68%	61%	
% of Parties that consider wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the river basin scale.	71%	63%	75%	80%	

<sup>7</sup> See also document COP15 Doc.15 *Report of the Secretariat on opportunities to further strengthen the Convention's contribution to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals* at <https://www.ramsar.org/document/cop15-doc15-report-secretariat-opportunities-further-strengthen-conventions-contribution>.

<sup>8</sup> See documents SC62 Doc.9, SC63 Doc.10 and SC64 Doc.10 for the Secretariat's reports to the Standing Committee during the past triennium.

### Summary of progress



57. Over three triennia there has been an increase both in the proportion of Contracting Parties that have adopted wetland policies or equivalent instruments that promote the wise use of their wetlands, and in the proportion of Parties that consider wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basin. Variation across regions is relatively moderate.
58. There has been a significant increase in Contracting Parties reporting amendment to existing legislation or policies to reflect commitments under the Convention, from 36% at COP13 to 47% at COP15. Parties also report increased research to inform wetland policies and plans focusing on valuation of ecosystem services.
59. As of COP15, 46% of Contracting Parties report formulating policies, plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems, up from 37% at COP13. A further 28% report partially formulating such policies, plans or projects, and 58% report research to inform wetland policies and plans focusing on agriculture-wetland interactions. There is a very significant increase in Parties reporting efforts to conserve and wisely use peri-urban wetlands, from 5% at COP13 to 44% at COP15. There is a consistent increase in the proportion of Parties that have established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in climate change mitigation and adaptation, but very limited progress has been made in including wetland actions in Nationally Determined Contributions and other strategies and plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The number of Parties reporting efforts to conserve small wetlands is increasing.
60. Persistent barriers to progress identified by Contracting Parties in narrative responses in National Reports include limited financial resources, weak institutional frameworks, and insufficient technical capacity. Recommendations to overcome these include provision of targeted technical and financial support, and promotion of peer-to-peer learning to share effective strategies across countries.

**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 Peoples and local communities at all relevant levels.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Target 22 and SDG Targets 2.3, 2.5, 5.5, 5.a, 6.b, 12.8 and 15.c.

### Key message

61. Integration of traditional knowledge into wetland management and participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in implementation of the Convention is generally growing, with many Contracting Parties utilizing the Convention's guidelines. Legislative frameworks are still in most cases partial and under development.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
10.3 Have case studies on the participation of Indigenous Peoples in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands been compiled? (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)*	Not available	32%	45%	40%	
10.5 Have traditional knowledge and management practices relevant to the wise use of wetlands been documented and their application encouraged?*	Not available	37%	50%	44%	

\* No indicators for Target 10 were defined in SP4. Data is provided on two questions in the National Report form relevant to the Target for which a time series is available. No pre-COP13 baseline is available.

### Summary of progress




62. National reports indicate gradual progress in integrating Indigenous and local community knowledge into wetland management. As of COP15, 19% of Contracting Parties have national legislation on Indigenous Peoples and local communities at all relevant levels in management of wetlands or Wetlands of International Importance, with a further 28% partially. The levels are notably higher in Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America.
63. Most Contracting Parties with such national legislation also report using the guiding principles for considering the cultural values of wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of Sites (Resolution VIII.19). 43% of Parties have applied the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and Indigenous Peoples' participation in the management of wetlands, and a further 12% are planning to do so.
64. From COP13 to COP15, there has been a general increase in the proportion of Contracting Parties that document and encourage application of traditional knowledge and management practices, and that have compiled case studies on the participation of Indigenous Peoples. National Reports increasingly reference engagement strategies, documentation efforts, and participatory practices, reflecting growing integration of traditional knowledge and participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the implementation of the Convention.
65. Progress is context-specific, somewhat variable across regions, dependent on legal and institutional arrangements and technical capacity, and in general suggesting that active local engagement enhances effectiveness. Contracting Parties in Europe frequently cited documentation systems but noted gaps in formal legal integration, whereas Parties in Africa emphasized strong community involvement while pointing to resource and capacity limitations, and Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean described practical, partnership-based approaches, often without supporting policy frameworks.
66. Recommendations to further accelerate progress identified in National Reports include building institutional capacity and strengthening legal frameworks, providing region-specific support, including financial support, and promoting knowledge exchange.

**Target 11. Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Targets 11, 12 and 13; and SDG Targets 1.5, 14.7 and 15.9.

Key message

67. Assessment of ecosystem services and integration of socio-economic and cultural values into wetland management is progressing at a moderate pace, with many Contracting Parties reporting partial implementation. Incorporation of wetland issues into poverty eradication strategies and implementation of wetland measures contributing to poverty alleviation, food and water security has not increased during the term of SP4 and remains below the baseline.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
% of Parties that have made assessment of ecosystem services of Wetlands of International Importance.	19%	24%	32%	22%	
% of Parties that have incorporated wetlands issues into poverty eradication strategies.	39%	30%	31%	32%	
% of Parties that have implemented programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans.	42%	33%	32%	30%	

Summary of progress

68. National reports indicate overall progress in recognizing and communicating the functions, services and benefits of wetlands. The proportion of Contracting Parties that report having undertaken assessment of ecosystem services of Wetlands of International Importance or other wetlands has increased slightly over the duration of SP4, albeit with a reduction since COP14. There is an increase in the proportion of Parties reporting partial assessments, from 37% at COP13 to 49% at COP15. Around half of Parties also report having considered socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands in the management planning for Wetlands of International Importance as well as other wetlands.
69. In narrative responses Contracting Parties in Africa frequently cite financial and technical limitations; those in Latin America and the Caribbean emphasize the role of cultural and traditional knowledge but note governance challenges. National Reports by Parties in Asia reflect growing policy innovation, whereas those in Oceania highlight the centrality of Indigenous knowledge but note inconsistent implementation. Parties in Europe often reference established frameworks and methodologies.
70. However, over the past three triennia there has been little progress in incorporation of wetland issues into poverty eradication strategies, and in implementation of wetland programmes or projects that contribute to food and water security. While wetlands are increasingly valued, integration of these values into national policy and planning remains limited. A significantly higher proportion of Contracting Parties report implementation of wetland programmes or projects that contribute to other benefits for human wellbeing (47%, and a further 21% partially).





71. Priorities in strengthening future implementation of the Convention emerging from National Reports include enhancing capacity building and resource mobilization. Over half of Contracting Parties cite limited financial and technical resources, especially in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, and improving governance and cross-sectoral coordination. Parties in Oceania and Latin America and the Caribbean particularly emphasize that integrating Indigenous and local knowledge can ensure more inclusive, effective wetland management.

**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.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Targets 2, 8 and 11; and SDG Targets 6.6, 14.2, 14.4, 15.1, 15.2 and 15.3.

#### Key message

72. While many Contracting Parties are taking action on wetland restoration, information on priority sites, restoration targets and implementation progress including area under restoration is variable and often limited.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
% of Parties that have established restoration plans [or activities] for sites.*	68%	54%	60%	44%	
% of Parties that have implemented effective restoration or rehabilitation projects.	70%	43%	53%	54%	

\* data presented is percentage of Contracting Parties that have identified priority sites for wetland restoration.

#### Summary of progress

73. As of COP15, 45% of Contracting Parties have established national wetland restoration targets. This is similar across most regions, with a slightly lower percentage of Parties in Africa. All Parties in North America have established national restoration targets. 21% of Parties report partial establishment of national restoration targets, with 16% at the planning stage.
74. Quantified restoration area commitments have been reported by Contracting Parties in two regions, mainly in Europe but also in Asia. The total area of these commitments is 789,638 km<sup>2</sup>. Parties in Africa and North America have reported on restoration activities without providing quantitative data on targets or commitments.
75. However, the proportion of Contracting Parties that have identified priority sites for wetland restoration has declined over the past three triennia, and as of COP15 is significantly below the baseline (44%, compared to 68%). The proportion of Parties that report partial identification of priority sites has increased to 30% as of COP15. Just over half of Parties have implemented restoration or rehabilitation projects, with a slight increase since COP13 but well below the baseline of 70% established in SP4.

76. National Reports include rich narrative information on restoration efforts. Contracting Parties in Asia commonly cite geographic information system (GIS) mapping and stakeholder-informed site selection. Contracting Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Oceania report successful pilot initiatives, but note scaling challenges including a lack of capacity for full execution. Parties in Africa frequently mention resource constraints, weak monitoring systems, and limited coordination. 76% of Parties reporting planned restoration actions provide detailed narratives. However, Parties not reporting on progress with restoration frequently do not provide information on possible challenges.
77. Accelerated target setting, planning and implementation of wetland restoration are needed to effectively fulfil the Convention's important role in relation to delivery against KM-GBF Target 2 on restoration, with a focus on areas of degraded inland water and coastal and marine ecosystems. Key actions to improve future wetland restoration emerging from narrative responses by Contracting Parties in National Reports include: increasing technical and financial support for regions where capacity gaps persist; promoting peer learning from successful initiatives; further standardizing reporting including increasing mandatory narrative descriptions to improve understanding of implementation barriers; investing in further development of monitoring systems, in light of the fact that many Parties cite monitoring and evaluation challenges; and strengthening long-term funding through dedicated mechanisms. The report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on *Progress of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030*<sup>9</sup> identifies similar challenges, and underscores the necessity for stronger governance frameworks, increased financial investment, and broader stakeholder engagement to achieve restoration targets effectively.
78. Further information is contained in the report of the Secretariat to COP15 on the assessment of progress on wetland restoration, provided in document COP15 Doc.14 and information document COP15 Inf.3.



**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.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Targets 10, 14 and 15; and SDG Targets 1.b, 2.4, 6.5, 8.3, 8.9, 11.3, 11.4, 11.a, 11.b, 12b, 13.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.c and 15.9.

#### Key message

79. Key planning and decision-support tools such as environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) are very widely used, supporting sustainability measures in sectors affecting wetlands. Most Contracting Parties are taking action to enhance sustainability of wetlands affected by key sectors including agriculture, tourism, urban development and infrastructure.

<sup>9</sup> See <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/8097/1f19/e37995d6157e799d83afa77a/cop-16-inf-13-en.pdf>.

Indicator	Baseline*	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
% of Parties that have a legal requirement to conduct environmental impact assessments for development projects that may impact wetlands.	86%	81%	89%	91%	
% of Parties that apply strategic environmental assessment when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact wetlands.	55%	51%	62%	69%	

\*No indicators for Target 13 were defined in SP4. Data is provided on two questions in the COP15 National Report form relevant to the Target for which a time series is available (13.2 and 13.3), with COP12 as baseline.

### Summary of progress

80. As of COP15, over 90% of Contracting Parties have legal requirements to conduct EIAs for development projects in key sectors that may impact wetlands. This represents an increase since COP13 (81%). 69% of Parties apply SEA when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact wetlands, also an increase over the past three triennia, from 51% at COP13. A further 16% report doing so partially. While requirements for EIA are generally high across regions, application of SEA shows some variation, with rates being higher in Europe (88%) than other regions (between 50% and 70%).
81. Many Contracting Parties also report actions taken or planned to enhance sustainability of wetlands when they are affected by key sectors: more than 75% of Parties in relation to fisheries, tourism and urban development; more than 65% in relation to agriculture, aquaculture, forestry and infrastructure, and slightly lower rates in relation to industry, energy and mining. Narrative responses attribute these gains to legal reforms, growing regulatory alignment with sustainable development objectives, institutional awareness and intersectoral coordination, and progress made in project implementation.
82. Common barriers identified by Contracting Parties include weak legal frameworks and funding gaps (especially in Africa and Oceania), regulatory and technical challenges (in Asia), need for improving monitoring and coordination (in Europe), and limited technical capacity (in Latin America and the Caribbean). Recommended actions to overcome barriers include further development of legal frameworks, increasing funding especially in developing regions, building technical and institutional capacity, and fostering intersectoral coordination.





## Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation

**Target 14: Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Targets 20 and 21 and SDG Targets 9.5, 9.a, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5 and 17.6.

### Key message

83. The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) has produced a significant number of scientific and technical outputs in line with the priorities of the Strategic Plan, supporting national implementation of the Convention and contributing towards other global goals and targets. STRP products are publicly available in the three official languages of the Convention and widely disseminated, but their utilization is difficult to assess.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
Number of “hits” on scientific and technical guidance pages of the Convention website and associated subtotals by country and region of the source of these hits.*	N/A	13,234	22,772	4,240**	
Number of STRP briefing papers downloaded from the Convention website and subtotals by country and region of the source of these downloads.*	N/A	11,337	14,198	1,954**	
Number of relevant handbooks downloaded from the Convention website and subtotals by country and region of the source of these downloads.	N/A	32,074	42,954	8,022**	
Number of practical tools and guidance documents for wetland conservation and wise use, and other key scientific documentation, which have been developed by either the STRP, Parties or others, and are available on the Convention website.	19	29	37	42	

\* Data by country and region not available.

\*\* Data on downloads and page visits for 2023–2025 are not directly comparable with previous triennia due to changes in tracking methods by Google analytics and the launch of a new Convention website in mid-2023, which limited continuity for trend analysis. Trend graphs are presented based on COP13 and COP14 data.

### Summary of progress

84. The STRP prepares scientific guidance and technical methodologies in line with its triennial workplan as approved by the Standing Committee. A total of ten outputs have so far been finalized during the 2023-2025 triennium, with a further eight outputs in preparation for publication in the run-up to COP15. This compares with seven outputs between 2019 and 2022, and 15 outputs between 2016 and 2018.

85. There was an overall increase in the rate of page hits and downloads of STRP products from COP13 to COP14. However, comparable data for the present triennium is not available due to changes in tracking methods and the launch of a new Convention website in mid-2023.
86. The most downloaded outputs during the 2023–2025 period include the Global Wetland Outlook and Handbooks (see Table 2 below). The Brief *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Upscaling wetland conservation, restoration and wise use through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)* has been downloaded more than 700 times in the relatively short time since it was published in 2024, and the associated Technical Report 12: *Scaling up wetland conservation and restoration to deliver the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Guidance on including wetlands in NBSAPs* has been downloaded more than 350 times. The STRP landing page received a total of 4,240 unique visits during the period from 15 June 2023 to 9 April 2025, including 3,536 visits to the English, 403 to the Spanish, and 301 to the French pages.

*Table 2: Total number of unique downloads across STRP product types: 15 June 2023 to 9 April 2025*

Type	English	French	Spanish	Total
Global Wetland Outlook	3,824	861	2,068	<b>6,753</b>
Policy Briefs	908	106	139	<b>1,153</b>
Briefing Notes	1,417	206	331	<b>1,954</b>
Technical Reports	1,658	166	343	<b>2,167</b>
Handbooks	4,497	747	2,778	<b>8,022</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,304</b>	<b>2,086</b>	<b>5,659</b>	<b>20,049</b>



87. To promote uptake, the STRP supported dissemination and capacity-building activities such as webinars. For instance, a joint online course with FAO (entitled “Wetlands and agriculture - pathways to sustainability”) was launched on the FAO eLearning Academy, with 649 people having completed the course to date. An introductory course on the STRP was also made available on the InforMEA platform. Two webinars on integrating wetlands into NBSAPs were held in 2024, with 545 participants and 215 views on YouTube as of April 2025.
88. Development of STRP outputs has been supported by a number of experts representing the International Organization Partners of the Convention (IOPs) and other observers as well as STRP National Focal Points, engaging a large constituency in the preparation of scientific guidance and technical methodologies. The relaunch of the STRP Workspace has strengthened collaboration in the development of STRP outputs, providing an online platform for sharing documents and information and tracking progress. The introduction of the STRP Communiqué, a biannual newsletter, has further improved communication, updates and stakeholder engagement.
89. While the number of STRP products has increased, there is a need to strengthen the tracking of their use, such as in the context of national policy processes, training activities and in activities or documents of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Existing indicators provide a partial measure of dissemination but provide limited insight into the reach, relevance or uptake of outputs. Future tracking may benefit from additional or alternative metrics, which may encompass references in National Reports or documentation of other MEAs.

**Target 15. Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Contracting Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.**

Contributions to SDG Targets 1.b, 2.5, 6.5, 6.6, 9.1, 11.a, 14.2, 15.1, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.9.

Key message

90. The number of Ramsar Regional Initiatives has increased, while engagement in RRI by Contracting Parties remains stable overall. An increased global total expenditure rate by RRI implies notable growth in activities, but implementation progress varies between RRI and some have encountered difficulties in sustaining operations.

Indicator	COP12 Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
% of Parties that have been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention.	68%	59%	66%	67%	
Number of Regional Initiatives successfully implemented.	15	19	20	22	

Summary of progress

91. The number of RRI increased from 15 to 22 during the term of SP4. New RRI were established in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on high altitude wetlands, rivers/river basins, and mangroves.
92. At COP15, 67% of Contracting Parties report taking part in the development and implementation of RRI. This represents a slight increase over the past three triennia, and on par with the baseline established in SP4. Reported rates of participation in RRI vary across regions, and are higher in Latin America and the Caribbean (76% but declining over the past three triennia) than in Africa, Asia and Europe (generally between 60% and 70%) and Oceania and North America (where there are no clear trends due to the relatively low number of Parties and/or varying reporting rates).
93. There is little change in the proportion of Contracting Parties that have supported or participated in the development of other regional wetland training and research centres, which as of COP15 is 35%; it is highest in Asia, close to the global average for Africa and Europe, and lowest in Latin America and the Caribbean.
94. While overall trends from COP13 to COP15 show growth in the number of RRI and consistent levels of regional engagement, the implementation progress of individual RRI varies considerably, including due to differences in institutional capacity and governance arrangements, constraints in coordination among participating countries, and limited financial resources of some RRI.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> See also document COP15 Doc.12 *Report of the Secretariat on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives* at <https://www.ramsar.org/document/cop15-doc12-report-secretariat-ramsar-regional-initiatives>.






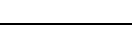
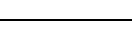

95. Recommendations towards further strengthening of RRI include targeted investments in regional centres to enhance training and technical exchange, and use of flexible capacity-building channels, such as digital platforms and peer learning, which may provide cost-effective options in the face of funding constraints.


**Target 16. Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Target 21 and SDG Targets 2.4, 4.7, 4.a, 6.a, 11.3, 13.1, 13.3, 15.7 and 17.9.

Key message

96. The reach and impact of World Wetlands Day continues to grow and engagement by Contracting Parties is consistently high. An increasing number of wetland visitor and education centres also supports outreach. However, limited development of national communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) action plans may limit awareness raising and capacity building in support of mainstreaming the Convention's mission.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
% of Parties that have branded World Wetlands Day activities.	89%	87%	91%	88%	
% of Parties with a governmental CEPA National Focal Point.	80%	74%	76%	79%	
% of Parties with a non-governmental National Focal Point.	69%	64%	69%	68%	
% of Parties that have established national action plans for wetland CEPA.	27%	24%	35%	32%	
Number of centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) established in Wetlands of International Importance.	636	747	951	968	
Number of centres at other wetlands.	309	349	520	537	
Number of World Wetland Day activities or events reported to the Secretariat. Source: World Wetlands Day Website	1,349	1,507	1,591	1,975	
Number of visits to the WWD website (for COP years only, not the entire triennium) Source: Google analytics	58,566	200,000	73,000	90,000	

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
Number of social media links to World Wetland Day. (data presented is social media reach (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram and YouTube) based on <i>Meltwater</i> )	496 million*	*	3.5 billion	6.72 billion	

\* method for tracking social media reach changed as of 2019. Data is presented for COP14 and COP15 against a 2019 baseline, using Meltwater.

Note: Consistent data is not available for two indicators in SP4; “Number of internet references to World Wetland Day activities” and “Number of internet references to the Ramsar Convention”.

### Summary of progress

97. World Wetlands Day (WWD) continues to be widely observed by close to 90% of Contracting Parties, and is a key opportunity to raise national awareness about wetlands. However, not all Contracting Parties register their WWD activities on the WWD website. Implementation of the WWD campaign across social media platforms has achieved strong results, reaching 3.5 billion potential users in 2022, 3.13 billion in 2023, and 2.5 billion in 2024. In 2025, the number surged to 6.72 billion, greatly expanding the campaign’s reach and engagement. On 2 February 2025, WWD also trended across platforms such as X and Instagram, increasing its visibility.
98. The vast majority of Contracting Parties consistently engage in WWD, organizing branded events and undertaking other activities that strengthen its reach and impact.
99. There is robust growth in the establishment of wetland education and visitor centres at Wetlands of International Importance as well as at other wetlands. However, centres often face ongoing maintenance and operational challenges.
100. Since COP13, most Contracting Parties have maintained CEPA focal points, with 80% reporting a government focal point and 69% a non-governmental one. Over half of Parties have communication mechanisms (other than a national committee) to share information with site managers, MEA focal points and other ministries and agencies.
101. However, as of COP15 less than a third of Contracting Parties have established national CEPA action plans, with relatively limited progress made during the term of SP4. A further one third of parties have CEPA national action plans in progress. CEPA plans at the local/site level are more widespread. A growing number of Parties indicate that CEPA elements are increasingly being incorporated into broader wetland or biodiversity strategies rather than developed as stand-alone plans.
102. Between 15 June 2023 and 15 April 2025, the CEPA-related webpages recorded the following engagement: the main CEPA Programme activities page received 2,295 views, the CEPA resources and activities page 489 views, and the new CEPA resources page 132 views.
103. Narrative responses suggest that CEPA implementation remains fragmented due to absent or underdeveloped action plans, and widespread but short-lived outreach activities. While initiatives such as school programmes and public campaigns are common, they often operate in isolation and lack mechanisms to assess long-term conservation impact. Common barriers include limited financial and technical resources, and weak institutional coordination. Some





Contracting Parties indicate a gradual shift toward embedding CEPA within other plans and strategies. Sustained public engagement will depend on institutionalizing CEPA within national wetland and environmental governance systems.

**Target 17. Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the Convention's fourth Strategic Plan 2016-2024 from all sources are made available.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Target 19 and SDG Targets 9.a, 10.6, 15.a, 15.b and 17.3.

Key message

104. An increasing number of Contracting Parties report national budget allocations towards implementation of the Convention. Most Parties with a development assistance agency provide funding for wetland projects in other countries, but the proportion of Parties that receive development assistance for wetland conservation and management has decreased and is below the baseline. There is a general increase in the total value of voluntary non-core contributions provided to the Secretariat.

Indicator	Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
% of Parties that have provided additional financial support through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities.	21%	19%	16%	_*	
% of Parties that have received funding support from development assistance agencies for national wetlands conservation and management.	40%	28%	29%	26%	

\*data unavailable – question not included in COP15 NR questionnaire

Summary of progress

105. National Reports submitted for COP15 show a very large increase in Contracting Parties reporting that financial support from national budgets is being provided to facilitate implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan – from 23% at COP13 and 26% at COP14 to 70% at COP15. While a positive trend, it is possible that it is partly due to a change in how Parties report due to a different formulation of the question in the COP15 National Report form.
106. There is a significant increase in the proportion of Contracting Parties providing funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries, which has risen to 27% as of COP15 compared to 11% at COP13 and 14% at COP14, or about 95% of Parties with a development assistance agency that are Parties to the Convention. Most of these also report that development proposals are subject to environmental safeguards and assessments.
107. However, the proportion of Contracting Parties that report having received development assistance funding specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management has decreased slightly, to 26% as of COP15. This is well below the baseline of 40% defined in SP4. Just under 40% of Parties in Asia and Africa report having received such funding, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (around 30%), and lower in other regions.




108. As of COP15, 30% of Contracting Parties report having received funding for wetlands from non-national or multilateral development assistance agencies.
109. Developing countries note difficulties in accessing external funding due to institutional capacity constraints as well as administrative hurdles and rigid donor requirements. Some also note delays in disbursement of funds and misalignment between funding opportunities and national priorities.
110. Since COP14, the Secretariat has mobilized CHF 5.2 million for non-core activities from 2022 to 2024 under Resolutions ExCOP3.2 and XIV.1. Contracting Parties contributed 93% of this amount, with donors including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Germany, Finland, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Zimbabwe. The private sector (Danone) and foundations (Nagao Wetland Foundation) contributed 5% and 2%, respectively.
111. Between COP12 and COP15 (2016–2024), the Secretariat secured CHF 8.89 million in non-core funds under Resolutions XII.1, XIII.2, ExCOP3.2 and XIV.1. Of this, 79% came from Contracting Parties, 12% from the private sector, 8% from foundations, and 1% from other sources, with 58% raised during the last triennium. The number of Parties providing voluntary contributions directly to the Secretariat was significantly lower for the triennium leading up to COP14 (five Parties) than for the triennium leading up to COP13 (12 Parties) and for the triennium leading up to COP15 (14 Parties; including the year 2022), primarily due to lower implementation of activities during the Covid-19 pandemic.





**Target 18: International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.**

Contributing to SDG Targets 1.b, 2.5, 6.5, 6.6, 6.a, 10.6, 12.4, 14.5, 14.c, 15.1, 15.6, 16.8, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.9.

Key message

112. International cooperation has generally strengthened at a steady pace, through the establishment of RRIs, cooperation on migratory species and shared wetland systems, and twinning arrangements for knowledge sharing and training.

Indicator	COP12 Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
Number of Regional Initiatives successfully implemented.	15	19	20	22	
% of Parties that have been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention.	68%	59%	66%	67%	
% of Parties that have established networks including twinning arrangements nationally or internationally for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features.	35%	29%	39%	37%	

% of Parties that have effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example in shared river basins and coastal zones).	<b>33%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>38%</b>	
% of Parties where co-ordination mechanisms for the implementation of MEAs exist at a national level.*	<b>46%*</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>52%</b>	
Number of Parties which have acceded to the Convention.	<b>168</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>0</b>	
Total number of Transboundary Ramsar Sites.	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	

\*Showing percentage of Contracting Parties with a mechanisms in place for collaboration between the Administrative Authority of the Convention and the focal points of UN and other global regional bodies and agencies. Baseline based on National Reports submitted to COP12.

### Summary of progress


113. The number of RRI has increased, whereas engagement in RRI by Contracting Parties has remained relatively stable. There is a modest increase in the establishment of networks including twinning arrangements for knowledge sharing and training as well as cooperative management for shared wetland systems. Participation in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species is particularly high, gradually increasing from a baseline of 73% of Parties to 83% at COP15.
114. More than a third of Contracting Parties report that effective management is in place for shared wetland systems, such as in shared river basins and coastal zones. This is a slight increase during the term of SP4. Over half of Parties have identified all their transboundary wetland systems.
115. As of COP15, more than half of Contracting Parties have mechanisms in place for collaboration between the Administrative Authority of the Convention and the focal points of UN and other global regional bodies and agencies. This is an increase of ten percentage points since COP13. A further 24% report such arrangements are partially in place. However, there is a slight decline in the proportion of Parties reporting that the national focal points for other MEAs are invited to participate in national Ramsar/wetland committees, from 42% at COP13 to 37% as of COP15. The decline is relatively big in Africa, attributed to capacity and funding gaps, whereas there is a significant increase in Asia.
116. The proportion of Contracting Parties providing narrative responses in National Reports has generally increased, providing more qualitative information on both progress and challenges. Recommendations to strengthen implementation include placing further emphasis on coordination among MEA focal points, including promoting peer learning (successful models have been provided by Sweden and Canada among others) and addressing persistent capacity and funding gaps.

**Target 19. Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and its 4th Strategic Plan 2016-2024 is enhanced.**

Contributing to KM-GBF Target 20 and SDG Targets 2.4, 6.a, 11.3, 13.1, 13.3, 15.c and 17.9.

Key message

117. While many Contracting Parties and NGOs conduct capacity building for implementation of the Convention, relatively few Parties have conducted national needs assessments.

Indicator	COP12 Baseline	COP13	COP14	COP15	Trend
% of Parties that have made an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention.	20%	17%	18%	17%	

Summary of progress

118. The proportion of Contracting Parties that have made an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention has remained unchanged throughout the term of SP4, and slightly below the baseline of 20%. Just over one-fifth of Parties report having made partial assessments, with around 10% at the planning stage. As of COP15, 29% of Parties report having implemented capacity development actions for the Convention's strategic plan, with a further 24% partially.
119. Thirty-nine percent of Contracting Parties reporting to COP15 have included wetland conservation and wise-use issues in formal education programmes, a significant increase from 26% at COP13. A further 38% have partially included wetland conservation and wise-use issues in formal education programmes. The most notable progress has been made in Asia, from 26% of Parties at COP13 to 63% at COP15.
120. Training opportunities for wetland site managers are more commonly provided at Wetlands of International Importance than elsewhere, but there are no clear trends in the number of training opportunities reported, and around one third of Contracting Parties respond "unknown".
121. Many Contracting Parties rely on localized or ad-hoc training rather than national programmes, and increased use of, for example, online platforms. While government-led programmes remain central, NGOs and international partners play a key role. Several Parties note challenges in sustaining programmes, including due to funding constraints and high staff turnover, which undermines long-term training outcomes. Parties stress the need to prioritize national needs assessments as a foundation for better implementation, and to ensure that development of capacity-building efforts to support implementation of the Convention is tailored to the context. Adopting or expanding good practices, such as national and international wetland school networks, where schools collaborate to train teachers, develop curriculum-based programmes, and share experiences and success stories is recommended. Improved monitoring tools are needed to assess training impact.

## Gender and youth

Contributing towards KM-GBF Targets 22 and 23 and SDG Targets 4 and 5.

122. Pursuant of paragraph 21 of Resolution XIII.18 on *Gender and Wetlands*, 94% of Contracting Parties reporting to COP15 cite actions promoting gender balance in wetland-related decisions or research. This marks a rise from 79% at COP14. Only 11% report collecting gender-disaggregated data in relation to participation in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research.
123. 83% of Contracting Parties reporting to COP15 describe gender-sensitive planning, policy integration, and support for women's roles in wetland management, research, and outreach. This includes national action plans or programmes (mentioned by 31% of Parties), environmental or wetland-specific policies (23%), international Conventions or agreements (21%), gender equality policies or strategies (15%), and legal and constitutional provisions (10%).
124. Areas where change is needed to achieve gender equality, as suggested by Contracting Parties reporting to COP15, include legal and policy reform and community engagement and local participation (mentioned by more than 20% of Parties); environmental planning and management, capacity building and training and leadership and decision-making (10-20%), and data collection and monitoring, climate change and disaster risk reduction (less than 10%).
125. Activities to advance gender mainstreaming in wetland conservation undertaken by the Secretariat since COP13 include guidelines to help Contracting Parties integrate gender considerations into their work, published in 2021 and available in three languages on the Convention website<sup>11</sup>. With funding from the Government of Canada, the "Women changemakers in the world of wetlands" initiative was launched to raise awareness and recognize women's contributions in wetland conservation.<sup>12</sup>
126. The gender balance of registered participants at meetings of the Convention is presented in Table 4 below, based on gender-disaggregated data collected by the Secretariat after COP13.

Table 4: Gender balance of registered participants at meetings of the Convention

Meeting	Female	Male
COP14	41%	59%
Third Extraordinary COP 2021	44%	56%
59th – 64th meeting of the Standing Committee	44%	56%
24th – 27th meeting of the STRP	40%	60%
Regional pre COP meetings	46%	54%

127. 80% of Contracting Parties provided information on strategies supporting youth participation in implementing the Convention, pursuant to paragraph 21 of Resolution XIV.12 on youth

<sup>11</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidance-mainstreaming-gender-under-ramsar-convention-wetlands>.

<sup>12</sup> For more information see document COP15 Doc.8.2 *Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention: Work of the Secretariat* at <https://www.ramsar.org/document/cop15-doc82-report-secretary-general-implementation-convention-work-secretariat>.

engagement. Key areas include wetland conservation or restoration (28%), environmental education (20%), specific youth programmes (16%), inclusion in decision-making (15%), partnerships (12%), and capacity building and training (9%).

128. As of COP15, 49 Contracting Parties have designated national Youth Focal Points, of which 25 are female.

### **Summary of implementation progress, challenges and priorities for future implementation**

129. This section provides a general summary of implementation progress and challenges and priorities for future implementation, based on National Reports submitted for COP15 (including information provided by Contracting Parties to questions contained in Section 2 of the National Report form).

#### Implementation progress

130. SP4 includes four Goals, three strategic and one operational/supporting. Significant if mostly gradual progress has been made towards all four Goals. However, progress remains limited in relation to some aspects under each Goal, as outlined below. In terms of the status of ecological character of wetlands, the proportion of Contracting Parties that report no change has remained relatively stable both for Wetlands of International Importance and for wetlands in general, and there is a reduction in the proportion of Parties that report deterioration. The Global Wetland Outlook estimates that wetlands are being lost at a rate of between 0.5% and 1.0% per year globally.
131. *Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation:* Generally, gradual progress has been made in addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation throughout the term of SP4. Progress has been made especially in mainstreaming wetlands into strategies and plans related to biodiversity and water, albeit to a lesser extent in water resource management and water efficiency plans and in some sectors with significant impact on wetlands. While some progress has been made in reforming subsidies/incentives schemes to reduce pressures and promote wise use of wetlands, efforts are constrained by governance, coordination and economic challenges. There is notable progress in policy measures for invasive alien species control and management, but limited assessment of effectiveness of IAS control programmes.
132. *Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Network of Wetlands of International Importance:* The network of Wetlands of International Importance has grown both in terms of number of Sites and area, and many recent designations include under-represented wetland types. Overall the ecological character of Wetlands of International Importance has remained relatively unchanged during the term of SP4, but there is a reduction in the number of Contracting Parties reporting that status of Sites has improved. There is a reported increase in the number of Wetlands of International Importance under effective management, but management effectiveness assessments are implemented only for some Sites. A very large proportion of Ramsar Information Sheets are out of date, and there is limited use of key processes for responding to negative change in ecological character of Wetlands of International Importance, including the Montreux Record.
133. *Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands:* There is steady progress in promoting the wise use of wetlands through integrated resource management, including through wetland policies or

equivalent instruments. Key planning and decision-support tools such as environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) are very widely used, supporting sustainability measures in sectors affecting wetlands. However, there is relatively limited progress in assessment of wetland ecosystem services to support consideration of their socio-economic and cultural values in relevant policies, plans and other measures. Moreover, little progress has been made in the development and updating of national wetland inventories, a significant constraint to supporting evidence-based wetland management and wise use, as well as in reporting under the Convention and against other global goals and targets.

134. *Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation:* International cooperation is generally increasing, including through the establishment of Ramsar Regional Initiatives and cooperation on migratory species and shared wetland systems. However, implementation progress varies across RRIs and some have encountered difficulties in sustaining operations. World Wetlands Day contributes significantly to elevating the Convention's visibility, and engagement by Contracting Parties is consistently high. However, the impact of outreach, awareness raising and capacity building may be constrained by limited development of national CEPA action plans. While there is some progress in relation to funding for implementation of the Convention through national budget allocations as well as through grants from donor countries, many Parties identify inadequate funding as a key constraint in implementing the Convention.
135. *Key areas of progress* highlighted by Contracting Parties in narrative responses included:
- strengthened legal and policy frameworks including: the adoption of national wetland strategies; institutional development and governance improvements such as the creation of wetland observatories, coordination bodies, and specialized conservation units; and progress in integration of wetlands into broader environmental or sectoral policies;
  - advances in monitoring including technical capacity, e.g. for implementation of wetland censuses and use of geospatial data, and progress in modernizing data systems;
  - progress in involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in conservation planning; and
  - development and implementation of innovative restoration projects.
136. *Major challenges hindering implementation* highlighted by Contracting Parties in narrative responses include:
- conflicting conservation and development goals, with pressure on wetland ecosystems from infrastructure, urbanization and industrial growth;
  - financial resource constraints, with lack of adequate government budgets or access to international funding limiting ability to support wetland conservation efforts;
  - policy and legislative gaps and weak enforcement mechanisms including poor inter-agency coordination, administrative fragmentation and overlapping mandates; weak integration of wetlands into broader development or sectoral policies; and
  - insufficient monitoring systems, lack of reliable data, challenges in conducting wetland surveys and use of new technologies; and limited stakeholder participation.

#### Priorities for future implementation of the Convention

137. Priorities for future implementation of the Convention most frequently identified by Contracting Parties in National Reports include:
- *Governance and legal reforms*, including strengthening and updating national legal frameworks, and formalizing strategic policies for wetlands and biodiversity;

- *Mainstreaming and integration*, including integration of wetland conservation, restoration and wise use into other/sectoral policies such as development, land use, and climate; and promotion of cross-sectoral coordination at all governance levels;
  - *Data, research and monitoring*, including development and updating of wetland inventories, strengthening of wetland monitoring including for Wetlands of International Importance, and development of relevant tools and methodologies;
  - *Capacity building and institutional strengthening*, including investment in technical training, increasing of staffing within relevant institutions, and strengthening of inter-agency collaboration; and
  - *Financial resource mobilization*, including addressing inadequate national budgets for implementation of the Convention, and significant scaling up of international funding from multiple sources, including development of new mechanisms for this.
138. Recommendations for assistance from the Secretariat made by Contracting Parties include:
- *Technical and advisory support*, including related to legal reforms, formulation of strategic plans and assessments, and advice in relation to tools, technical manuals and templates;
  - *Capacity development*, including expanded offering of training, technical workshops, and professional exchanges, and further emphasis on South-South learning and capacity sharing;
  - *Facilitation*, including in relation to regional or cross-border initiatives, and collaborative planning between Contracting Parties and with stakeholders; and
  - *Information sharing and visibility*, including dissemination of best practices, innovations and success stories, and promotion of global campaigns to enhance wetland visibility and commitment.
139. Recommendations for assistance from the IOPs include:
- *Support, including provision of financial and logistical support*, including funding for implementation of wetland management and restoration projects, as well as mobilizing new, additional funding from multiple sources towards wetlands protection, restoration and wise use;
  - *Implementation partnerships*, such as collaboration on development and implementation of co-funded projects, supporting and promoting inclusion of NGOs and civil society in on-the-ground wetland conservation efforts, and provision of equipment and infrastructure e.g. for data collection and site protection;
  - *Scientific research and innovation*, including collaboration to develop evidence-based solutions, restoration science, innovation in ecosystem services valuation and decision-support tools, and strengthening data systems; and
  - *Advocacy and outreach*, including use of the IOPs' platforms to raise visibility of wetland issues globally, and joint efforts to promote wetland mainstreaming in climate and biodiversity dialogues.

#### Strengthening reporting

140. While the number of Contracting Parties submitting National Reports has decreased over the triennium, the proportion of Parties providing narrative responses in their Reports has generally increased, providing more qualitative information on both progress, challenges and priorities.
141. A number of factors complicates analysis of data contained in National Reports, identification of trends and comparisons across regions, including the following:



- The number of indicators varies significantly across the SP4 Targets, with the majority being process and output indicators. Indicators for two Targets (Targets 10 and 13) were not included in SP4 or subsequently developed and adopted.
- A number of changes were made to indicator questions in the National Report forms between COPs. While in most cases time series have been preserved, in at least one case it was not, and in some cases it may have affected how Contracting Parties respond, thereby skewing results.
- Reporting is somewhat inconsistent, in terms of both the number of Contracting Parties submitting National Reports, and the data provided in reports.

142. Addressing these issues will strengthen tracking of progress towards targets and goals and support evidence-based decision-making under the Convention. In establishing the indicator framework for SP5 it is recommended that:

- A limited number of well-defined indicators are established for each target, maintaining relevant indicators from SP4 in SP5.
- Time series are preserved/maintained to the extent possible, for indicators as well as for other questions in the National Report form.
- There is consistency in the formulation of questions used to measure indicators in National Reporting form across triennia.
- Outcome indicators for the achievement of the overall goals of the SP in the longer term are combined with process and output indicators for individual targets which enable progress assessment between triennia.
- Brief, clear guidance is developed for indicators/indicator questions to promote harmonization in data collection as well as reporting. This may include simple metadata sheets for indicators.

## Annex 1

### Summary of voluntary reporting on national target setting

1. Out of 112 Contracting Parties that submitted National Reports for COP15, 48 Parties (in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean) have provided at least some information on national targets established that support implementation of SP4.
2. The table shows the number of national targets identified for each target of SP4, how many of these are identified as high priority, how many are identified as adequately resourced, and how many of the targets for which resources are limiting or severely limiting.
3. It should be noted that information provided by Contracting Parties is highly variable, and includes a number of well defined, quantitative targets, as well as information that expresses general aspiration rather than a specific target. Information presented should therefore be seen as indicative.

SP4 Goals and Targets	Total number of national targets	Number of high-priority targets	Targets with good or adequate resourcing	Targets for which resourcing is limiting or severely limiting
<b>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation</b>				
Target 1: Mainstreaming Wetland benefits	28	18	14	13
Target 2: Water Use	28	19	15	11
Target 3: Public and private sectors	22	8	8	12
Target 4: Invasive alien species	28	17	11	13
<i>Sub-total Goal 1</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>49</i>
<b>Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network</b>				
Target 5: Ecological character of Sites	23	16	8	14
Target 6: Area, number and connectivity of Sites				
Target 7: Sites at risk	20	12	5	12
<i>Sub-total Goal 2</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>26</i>
<b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b>				
Target 8: National wetland inventories	21	14	5	13
Target 9: Wise Use	20	13	4	14
Target 10: Traditional Knowledge	18	8	6	9
Target 11: Wetland functions	19	12	7	11
Target 12: Restoration	23	14	7	13
Target 13: Enhanced sustainability	20	12	4	12
<i>Sub-total Goal 3</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>72</i>
<b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b>				
Target 15: Regional Initiatives	19	10	4	13
Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use	21	12	5	14

<b>SP4 Goals and Targets</b>	<b>Total number of national targets</b>	<b>Number of high-priority targets</b>	<b>Targets with good or adequate resourcing</b>	<b>Targets for which resourcing is limiting or severely limiting</b>
Target 17: Financial and other resources	19	10	2	12
Target 18: International cooperation	18	12	7	9
Target 19: Capacity Building	20	12	3	15
<i>Sub-total Goal 4</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>63</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>210</b>