

# Ramsar National Report to COP13

## COP13 National Report

### Background information

1. The COP13 National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee 52 for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (United Arab Emirates, 2018).
2. The Standing Committee through Decision SC52-07 has also agreed that an online National Reporting format could be made available to Parties by keeping the off-line system and requested the Secretariat to present an evaluation for the next COP regarding the use of the on-line system.
3. The National Report Format is being issued by the Secretariat in 2016 to facilitate Contracting Parties' implementation planning and preparations for completing the Report. The deadline for submission of national targets is by 30 November 2016 and the deadline for submission of completed National Reports is January 21st 2018.
4. Following Standing Committee discussions, this COP13 NRF closely follows that of the NRF used for COP12, to permit continuity of reporting and analysis of implementation progress by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP12 NRF). It is also structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2016-2024 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP12 as Resolution XII.2.
5. This COP13 NRF includes 92 indicator questions. In addition, Section 4 is provided as an optional Annex in order to facilitate the task of preparing the Party's National Targets and Actions for the implementation of each of the targets of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 according to Resolution XII.2.
6. As was the case for previous NRF, the COP13 Format includes an optional section (Section 5) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information, on indicators relevant to each individual Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site) within its territory.
7. Note that, for the purposes of this national reporting to the Ramsar Convention, the scope of the term "wetland" is that of the Convention text, i.e. all inland wetlands (including lakes and rivers), all nearshore coastal wetlands (including tidal marshes, mangroves and coral reefs) and human-made wetlands (e.g. rice paddy and reservoirs), even if a national definition of "wetland" may differ from that adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

### The purposes and uses of national reporting to the Conference of the Contracting Parties

8. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention and are made publicly available on the Convention's website.
9. There are seven main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
  - i) provide data and information on how, and to what extent, the Convention is being implemented
  - ii) provide tools for countries for their national planning
  - iii) capture lessons and experience to help Parties plan future action;
  - iv) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
  - v) provide a means for Parties to account for their commitments under the Convention;
  - vi) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementing the Convention, and to plan its future priorities; and
  - vii) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
10. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of

effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention”.

11. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, the Ramsar Secretariat holds in a database all the information it has received and verified. The COP13 reports will be in an online National Reporting system.

12. The Convention’s National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:

- i) providing an opportunity to compile and analyze information that contracting parties can use to inform their national planning and programming.
- ii) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global, national and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the COP as a series of Information Papers, including:
  - \* the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level;
  - \* the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance); and
  - \* the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region;
- iii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP.
- iv) providing the source data for time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (4th edition, 2010); and
- v) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention’s lead implementation role on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP used the COP10 NRF indicators extensively in 2009 to prepare contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems for consideration by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3). Similar use of COP12 NRF indicators is anticipated for the CBD’s next such in-depth review.

### **The structure of the COP13 National Report Format**

**Section 1** provides the institutional information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

**Section 2** is a ‘free-text’ section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**Section 3** provides the 92 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation Goals and Targets in the Strategic Plan 2016-2024, and with an optional ‘free-text’ section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity.

**Section 4** is an optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that has developed national targets to provide information on the targets and actions for the implementation of each of the targets of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

In line with Resolution XII.2, which encourages Contracting Parties “to develop and submit to the Secretariat on or before December 2016, and according to their national priorities, capabilities and resources, their own quantifiable and time-bound national and regional targets in line with the targets set in the Strategic Plan”, all Parties are encouraged to consider using this comprehensive national planning tool as soon as possible, in order to identify the areas of highest priority for action and the relevant national targets and actions for each target.

The planning of national targets offers, for each of them, the possibility of indicating the national priority for that area of activity as well as the level of resourcing available, or that could be made available during the triennium, for its implementation. In addition, there are specific boxes to indicate the National Targets for implementation by 2018 and the planned national activities that are designed to deliver these targets. Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 shows the synergies between CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Ramsar Targets. Therefore, the NRF provide an opportunity that Contracting Parties indicate as appropriate how the actions they undertake for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets according to paragraph 51 of Resolution XII.3.

**Section 5** is an optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that so wishes to provide additional information regarding any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

## **General guidance for completing and submitting the COP13 National Report Format**

All Sections of the COP13 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).

The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is January 21st **2018**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP13.

The deadline for submission of national targets is by 30 November 2016

To help Contracting Parties refer to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP12, for each appropriate indicator a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP12 NRF or previous NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}

For follow up and where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties implementation in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.

Only Strategic Plan 2016-2024 Targets for which there are implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those targets of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted (e.g. targets 6 and 14).

For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarification, do so in the additional information box below the relevant indicator question. Please be as concise as possible (**maximum of 500 words** in each free-text box).

The NRF should ideally be completed by the principal compiler in consultation with relevant colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP12 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice ([nationalreports@ramsar.org](mailto:nationalreports@ramsar.org)).

## Section 1: Institutional Information

**Important note:** the responses below will be considered by the Ramsar Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points, and will be used to update the information it holds. The Secretariat's current information about your focal points is available at <http://www.ramsar.org/search-contact>.

### Name of Contracting Party

The completed National Report **must be accompanied by a letter** in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP13 National Report. It can be attached to this question using the "Manage documents" function (blue symbol below)

> Republic of Belarus

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Belarus\\_National\\_Report.tif](#)

## Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

### Name of Administrative Authority

> Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus

### Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

> Andrei Khudyk – Minister of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus;  
Alexander Nikolaevich Korbut – coordinator of the Ramsar Convention, deputy minister of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.

### Mailing address

> Kollektornaja 10, Minsk 220004, Belarus

### Telephone/Fax

> Tel.: (+375 17) 200-66-91 Fax: (+375 17) 200-55-83

### Email

> minproos@mail.belpak.by

## Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

### Name and title

> Andrei N. KUZMICH – Deputy Head of Biological and Landscape Diversity Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

### Mailing address

> Kollektornaja 10, Minsk 220004, Belarus

### Telephone/Fax

> Tel: (+375 17) 200-53-34

### Email

> a.kuzmich.belarus@gmail.com

## Designated National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)

### Name and title

> Alexander V. KOZULIN - Senior Researcher, Scientific & Practical Centre for Bioresources

### Name of organisation

> State Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus

### Mailing address

> Akademicheskaja 27, Minsk 220072, Belarus

### Telephone/Fax

> Tel: (+375 17) 294-90-69; Fax: +375 (17) 284-15-93

### Email

> kozulinav@yandex.ru

## **Designated Government National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Programme on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)**

### Name and title

> Alena M. MELIASHKOVA - Press Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

### Name of organisation

> Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus

### Mailing address

> Kollektornaja 10, Minsk 220004, Belarus

### Telephone/Fax

> Tel: (+375 17) 200-58-97

### Email

> Pressmediator@mail.ru

## **Designated Non-Government National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Programme on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)**

### Name and title

> Maryna U. BELAVUS - Chairman of the Council of the Belarusian Public Association "Ecological Initiative"

### Name of organisation

> Belarusian Public Association "Ecological Initiative"

### Mailing address

> Griboedova 26-1, Minsk, 220035, Belarus

### Telephone/Fax

> Tel: (+375 29) 649-71-37

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> enviropermit@tut.by

## **Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges**

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP12 reporting)

### **A. What have been the five most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention?**

- 1)
  - › 1) Elaboration and approval by the Government of a new edition of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020 taking into consideration Aichi targets; elaboration and approval by the Government of the National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016-2020 taking into account the Ramsar Convention provisions;
- 2)
  - › Development of the project concept of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On protection and use of mires (peatlands)” taking into account provisions of the Ramsar Convention;
- 3)
  - › Development and approval by the Government of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands taking into account provisions of the Ramsar Convention;
- 4)
  - › Development and approval by the Government of the National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030 and Scheme of Rational Allocation of Specially Protected Areas of Republican Importance till January, 1, 2025 taking into account provisions of the Ramsar Convention;
- 5)
  - › Inventory of natural mires of Belarus and basing on the results of the inventory development and approval by the Government of the Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030 in accordance with provisions of the Ramsar Convention.

### **B. What have been the five greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?**

- 1)
  - › Obtaining of state and sectoral support on issues of preventing peat extraction in natural or close to natural mires;
- 2)
  - › Defining the state and scientific approaches to use of degraded lands with peat soils, that are used in agriculture and peat deposits withdrawn from commercial exploitation;
- 3)
  - › 12 times excess of peat consumption over peat growth;
- 4)
  - › Excess of carbon dioxide emission from peatlands to atmosphere (4.45 million tons of carbon annually) over its absorption (0.23 million tons of carbon annually);
- 5)
  - › Insufficient use of biological resources of mires.

### **C. What are the five priorities for future implementation of the Convention?**

- 1)
  - › Protection and sustainable use of wetlands;
- 2)
  - › Conservation of natural mires in Belarus and their designation for special and specific protection;
- 3)
  - › Inventory of forest ameliorative systems and defining the ways of their use;
- 4)
  - › Restoration of disturbed wetland ecosystems;

5)

> Expansion of the Ramsar sites network.

D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

> No recommendations

E. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)? (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to develop)

> No recommendations

F. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those in the 'biodiversity cluster' (Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), World Heritage Convention (WHC), and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)?

> Close cooperation with the Convention on Biodiversity in integration of nature conservation issues in different spheres of politics, consulting of national focal points on reporting.

G. How can implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., on sustainable development, energy, extractive industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?

> No comments

H. Do you (AA) have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

> No comments

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

> Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus  
Scientific & Practical Centre for Bioresources (former Institute of Zoology), National Academy of Sciences  
Institute of Experimental Botany, National Academy of Sciences  
United Nations Development Programme in Belarus  
Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources  
BirdLife Belarus - Non-governmental organization

## Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

### 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.

1.1 Have wetland issues/benefits been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.3.2} {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

Please select only one per square.

a) National Policy or strategy for wetland management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
b) Poverty eradication strategies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
e) Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
f) National forest programmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
g) National policies or measures on agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
i) National policies on energy and mining	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant



j) National policies on tourism	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
k) National policies on urban development	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
l) National policies on infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
m) National policies on industry	<input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
n) National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
o) National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
p) National policies on wastewater management and water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant

## 1.1 Additional information

> The Strategy for the Realization of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus № 177 dated February 10, 2009. National targets for realization of the 4th Strategic Plan 2016-2024 are featured in the National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030, as well as in national strategies and plans aimed at conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, including wetlands: Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2011-2020;

National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016-2020;

National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas until January 1, 2030;

State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 - 2020;

Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020;

Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peat Resources of the Republic of Belarus and Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030;

other strategic planning documents of sectoral development in energetics, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, hunting and tourism.

## 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

2.1 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed to support the implementation of the Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1, VIII.2) ? 1.24.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

## 2.1 Additional Information

> Separate issues on assessment of quantity and quality of water resources needed to maintain ecological functions of wetlands in accordance with Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands are included in national legislation and regulatory acts, aimed at conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, including conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

According to the Water Code of the Republic of Belarus, legal entities and individual entrepreneurs should keep records of extracted groundwater, surface water taken and waste water discharged into the environment while conducting economic or other activities. Registration of extracted groundwater, taken surface water and waste water discharged into the environment should be done with the use of measuring instruments for flow (volume) of water.

State registration of volumes of extracted groundwater, taken surface water and waste water discharged into the environment, and other information about water use and protection are kept in the State Water Cadaster. The State Water Cadaster is managed by the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environment Protection of the Republic of Belarus and Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus.

At present more than 98.6% of water taken for use is measured by measuring devices, which has enabled reduction of water consumption for population needs by 13.6% over the past two years.

## 2.2 Have assessments of environmental flow been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands (Action r3.4.iv)

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

## 2.2 Additional Information

> Within the frameworks of implementation of International Decade for Action "Water for Life" 2005-2015, United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Ministry of Nature Resources and Environment Protection of the Republic of Belarus has approved the Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020, defining the main problems and tasks in the area of water use and protection, taking into consideration assessments of environmental flow in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands.

Management plans for water resources of Neman, Dnieper, Bug rivers' basins have been developed, management plan for the Pripyat River's basin is under development. Management of water objects let to improve considerably the general state of waterbodies in basins of Dnieper, Western Dvina, Neman and Pripyat Rivers (especially by content of biogenic elements). There is a tendency to stabilize the state of waterbodies in the basin of Western Bug River.

## 2.3 Have Ramsar Sites improved the sustainability of water use in the context of ecosystem requirements?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned
- O=No Change
- X=Unknown

## 2.3 Additional Information

> Role of Belorussian Ramsar sites in sustainable use of water resources is very important. Here are the most important ecological functions of 26 Belorussian Ramsar sites: accumulation and storage of fresh water, flow regulation of surface and ground waters, maintaining of groundwater level, water purification, retention of contaminants. Management plans envisage measures for optimization of water regime on Ramsar sites. Priority measures for water regime maintaining were implemented on 4 Ramsar sites.

## 2.4 Have the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12 ) been used/applied in decision-making processes. (Action 3.4.6.)

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

#### 2.4 Additional Information

> Recommendations of the Guidelines have been used in development of the Water Code, Water Strategy and Management Plans for Ramsar sites.

2.5 Have projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands been developed (Action r3.4.ix. )

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

#### 2.5 Additional Information

> Plans of water resources management in basins of Neman, Dnieper, Bug Rivers have been developed; Management plan for Pripyat river's basin is under development. These basin plans of distribution of water resources partially consider requirements of maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands.

2.6 How many household/municipalities are linked to sewage system? SDG Target 6.3.1.

Please select only one option

- E=Exact number (households/municipalities)

>

- F=Less than (households/municipalities)

>

- G=More than (households/municipalities)

> 2034

- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

#### 2.6 Additional Information

> Population number, linked to sewage system is 7 443.0 thousand people (78.4% of total population number).

2.7 What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country? SDG Target 6.3.1.

Please select only one option

- E=Exact number (percentage)

> 91.9 of urban population and 37.9% of rural population

- F=Less than (percentage)

>

- G=More than (percentage)

>

- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

#### 2.7 Additional Information

> Provision of centralized and local household sewerage systems for urban population is 91.9%, rural population - 37.9%

The total coverage of the centralized water supply and sewerage system is 88% for urban homes and 40-44% for rural houses. The number of people connected to public sewerage is 7,443,000 people (78.4% of the total population).

2.8 What is the percentage of users of septic tank/pit latrine? SDG Target 6.3.1.

Please select only one option

- E=Exact number (percentage)

>

- F=Less than (percentage)

>

G=More than (percentage)

> 3%

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

## 2.8 Additional Information

> Population number, linked to sewage system is 7443.0 thousand people (78.4% of total population number).

## 2.9 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? SDG Target 6.3.1.

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

C=Partially

D=Planned

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

## 2.9 Additional Information

> Ponds for wastewater treatment are used to regulate water supply of ameliorative systems, performing functions of water accumulation and water purification from suspended organic matter.

## 2.10 How do the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology perform? SDG Target 6.3.1.

*Please select only one option*

A=Good

B=Not Functioning

C=Functioning

Q=Obsolete

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

## 2.10 Additional Information

> Water from ameliorative systems goes into accumulation ponds and then is discharged into natural waterbodies and watercourses. Accumulation ponds perform mainly a function of water purification from solid particles and partially contribute to mineralization lowering.

## 2.11 How many centralised wastewater treatment plants exist at national level? SDG Target 6.3.1.

*Please select only one option*

E=Exact number (plants)

>

F=Less than (plants)

>

G=More than (plants)

> 119 enterprises of housing and communal services and water utilities.

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

## 2.11 Additional Information

> All 100% of Belarussian towns and cities have centralized sewerage and wastewater treatment system. Most of the industrial enterprises have autonomous treatment facilities.

## 2.12 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants? SDG Target 6.3.1.

*Please select only one option*

A=Good

B=Not functioning

C=Functioning

Q=Obsolete

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

## 2.12 Additional Information

> More than 80% of wastewater treatment plants were developed using the technologies of 1970s-1980s. Wastewater treatment plants of a significant part of the enterprises have great physical wear and tear, require reconstruction and transition to new more efficient technologies. Issues of construction and reconstruction of wastewater treatment plants are considered in the Water Strategy of Belarus, Water Lawbook, national, regional and sectoral strategies and plans.

## 2.13 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is? SDG Target 6.3.1.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Not Functioning
- C=Functioning
- Q=Obsolete
- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

## 2.13 Additional Information

> Decentralized wastewater treatment technologies are represented in Belarus by filtration fields, including 1601 wastewater treatment facilities. Their capacity is 530709.2 m3 per day, the area of filtration fields is 3626.4 ha. 48428.3 thousand m3 of wastewater was discharged as a result of filtration fields using in 2015 (this is 4.71% of the overall amount of all wastewater categories discharge). 6086.70 thousand m3 of wastewater per year is discharged as a result of using of agricultural irrigation fields; 10014.3 thousand m3 of wastewater per year (1.57% of the overall amount of all wastewater categories discharge) is discharged as a result of using of accumulators, evaporators, etc. (according to the State Statistic Reporting of water users to the Ministry of Nature Resources as a part of the State Water Cadaster maintaining for the 2015).

## 2.14 Is there a wastewater reuse system? SDG Target 6.3.1.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned
- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

## 2.14 Additional Information

> Amount of water, used in wastewater reuse systems, varies from 89% to 97%.

## 2.15 What Is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system? SDG Target 6.3.1.

*Please select only one option*

- R=Agriculture
- S=Landscape
- T=Industrial
- U=Drinking
- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

## 2.15 Additional Information

Please indicate if the wastewater reuse system is for free or taxed or add any additional information.

> The wastewater reuse system is for free.

## Target 3

Public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands. {1.10}

## 3.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {1.10.1}

KRA 1.10.i

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

## 3.1 Additional Information

> Application of incentive measures, stimulating rational use of water resources, is envisaged by the main strategic document in Belarus.

National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2020 (NSUR-2020) is the main political document in the area of Belarus' development; it includes political issues in the Water sector concerning ecological management and environmental protection. This document confirms a row of priorities such as: use of regulating measures and economic incentives to reduce the amount of drinking water used by industrial enterprises and to reduce amount of contaminants in wastewater discharged into waterbodies; applying of water saving technologies; reduction of water loss and unaccounted use of water; and raising awareness among population.

The document "System of measures to strengthen the technological potential of the national economy, allowing it to function on ecological "green" principles" was approved in the Republic of Belarus to encourage private sector. This document defines short-term (until 2015) and long-term (2015-2020) technological, legal and economic measures for "greening", envisages applying of mechanism of "green" state procurements, as well as establishment of different incentives for use of new ecological technologies, including the possibility of reduction of annual environmental tax by the sum of "green" investments.

Besides, a row of other economic instruments is used in Belarus to increase the rate of abundance of ecological legislation in industry and other sectors of economy. Some of these instruments are: environmental tax, tax for the use of natural resources, compensation for damage caused to the environment, payments for utilities (waste, water supply and sewerage, etc.). Financial incentives are used to attract investments to green technologies and to introduce the ecological management practice.

### 3.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the conservation, wise use and management of {1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

Please select only one per square.

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

### 3.2 Additional information

> The private sector and the population are involved in ensuring financial sustainability of wetlands management. Thus, on the territory of Ramsar sites Sporovsky Biological Reserve and Zvanets the method of sustainable use of mire biomass in energetics, agriculture and building was successfully tested jointly with private sector to maintain fen mires in open state and protect globally threatened animal species. The financial resources received from this economic activity are used to increase the capacity of environmental institutions and to implement environmental measures on these Ramsar sites. Traditional method of engaging of the private sector and population to ensuring financial sustainability of wetlands management is development of ecological tourism, which is practiced almost on all Ramsar sites.

### 3.3 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

### 3.3 Additional information

> Incentive measures are envisaged by the state programs and the state common policy of use of wetlands and are being implemented during realization of such programs.

### 3.4 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Z=Not Applicable

### 3.4 Additional Information

> The new edition of the Water Strategy was prepared, the Water Code was revised. These documents envisage mechanisms for prevention and minimization of incentive measures, which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands.

## 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.

4.1 Does your country have a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

### 4.1 Additional information

> Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus with cooperation with the National Academy of Sciences has prepared the list of invasive alien species of wild animals and plants, which distribution and population size are subject to regulation. In 2016 this list was revised and updated according to data of invasive species monitoring. Currently it includes 9 plant species and 13 animal species. Data on invasive alien species are stored and maintained in Cadasters of Flora and Fauna of the Republic of Belarus. State of invasive plant and animal species is monitored in Belarus within the frameworks of the National environment monitoring system; recommendations on prevention and minimization of damage from their distribution are being developed. A computer data bank has been created and works are carried out on inventory and mapping of habitats of invasive species. The Centre on Invasive Animal Species was established in 2007 by the Decisions of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. It is interdisciplinary scientific unit of the Academy of Sciences of Belarus ([www.ias.by](http://www.ias.by)). The aims of the Centre establishment are: preparation, implementation and coordination of activities for detection, evaluation and prediction of the introduction and distribution of invasive animal and plant species on the territory of Belarus; development of measures for prevention, minimization and reduction of damage from distribution of these species; accumulation, compilation and provision of information to interested bodies and departments. All the animal species included in the list of invasive alien species are wetland species. Taking into account that Belarus holds the watershed of the Baltic and Black Seas and the presence of navigable and other canals, a special attention is paid to the problem of invasion of alien species, for which Belarussian water courses and waterbodies are transit between sea basins or acceptor wetlands. Among them are fish species, crustaceans and molluscs, penetrated into the territory of Belarus in last decades: zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), gravel snail (*Lithoglyphus naticoides*), *Corophium curvispinum*, spinycheek crayfish (*Orconectes limosus*), Chinese sleeper (*Percottus glehni*), brown bullhead (*Ictalurus nebulosus*), Stone moroko (*Pseudorasbora parva*), round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*), monkey goby (*Neogobius fluviatilis*), racer goby (*Neogobius gymnotrachelus*) and pond slider (*Trachemys scripta*).

There are also plant invasive alien species threatening the floodplain ecosystems: Sosnowsky's hogweed (*Heracleum sosnowskyi*), giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) and wild cucumber (*Echinocystis lobata*).

4.2 Have national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management been established or reviewed for wetlands? {1.9.2} KRA 1.9.iii

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

### 4.2 Additional information

> In 2016 the list of invasive alien species was revised and updated according to data of invasive species monitoring. Currently it includes 9 plant species and 13 animal species. Control and management of invasive species are conducted in accordance with legislation of the Republic of Belarus, normative legal acts and methodological documents. Local executive and administrative authorities have developed and approved action plans on the restriction of distribution and numbers of the most aggressive alien plant species - Sosnowsky's hogweed *Heracleum sosnowskyi*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, Canadian goldenrod *Solidago canadensis*, *Acer negundo*, black locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*, wild cucumber *Echinocystis lobata*. Several of them grow in floodplains of rivers and lakes and thus threaten wetland ecosystems

(Sosnowsky's and giant hogweeds, wild cucumber). Measures for eradication of these species are developed and being implemented in practice. Primary attention is paid to eradication of Sosnowsky's hogweed *Heracleum sosnowskyi*, which poses a threat to the health of the population.

#### 4.3 How many invasive species are being controlled through management actions.

*Please select only one option*

E=Exact number (species)

> 22

F=Less than (species)

>

G=More than (species)

>

C=Partially

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

#### 4.3 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information

> Rules of regulation of distribution and population of wild animals, approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated 30.01.2008 № 126 states the list of invasive alien species of wild animals subject to regulation in Belarus. This list includes 13 species: zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), gravel snail (*Lithoglyphus naticoides*), Corophium curvispinum, spinycheek crayfish (*Orcanectes limosus*), Chinese sleeper (*Percottus glehni*), brown bullhead (*Ictalurus nebulosus*), Stone moroko (*Pseudorasbora parva*), round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*), monkey goby (*Neogobius fluviatilis*), racer goby (*Neogobius gymnotrachelus*), pond slider (*Trachemys scripta*), raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*), American mink (*Mustela vison*).

According to the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated 7.12.2016 № 1002 "To some issues on regulation of distribution and population of plant species" the list of plant species which distribution and numbers subject to regulation includes 9 species: Sosnowsky's hogweed (*Heracleum sosnowskyi*), giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), giant goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*), *Acer negundo*, *Cannabis sativa*, opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), wild cucumber (*Echinocystis lobata*).

#### 4.4 Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

C=Partially

D=Planned

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

#### 4.4 Additional information

> The effectiveness of the control over distribution of invasive alien species is assessed on the base of the monitoring of alien species, as well as on the base of data, provided by different institutions to the Ministry of Nature Resources. Thus, in recent years the area occupied by the *Heracleum sosnowskyi*, has shrunk by 3-5% due to implemented measures.

Besides, measures for control over alien animal and plant species are envisaged by all Management Plans for Ramsar sites.

## Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

### Target 5

The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective, planning and integrated management {2.1.}

#### 5.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

C=Partially

D=Planned

#### 5.1 Additional information



> Development of Ramsar sites network and their sustainable protection are among aims of the The Strategy for the Realization of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Also, to improve the coordination of planning and implementation of nature conservation activities, the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus has decided that national strategic targets and action plan on the sustainable use of wetlands will be included in the new edition of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020. Separate measures for complex management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands are included in the National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030; Scheme of Rational Allocation of Specially Protected Areas of Republican Importance till January, 1, 2025; Strategy on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands.

5.2 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.1} KRA 2.2.ii

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

D=Planned

## 5.2 Additional information

> Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on the Ramsar Convention Implementation, established under the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus is constantly in contact with Ramsar Sites Information Service, also regarding issues on identification and designation of Ramsar sites. Scientific support of the Ramsar Convention implementation is provided by the department of international cooperation and scientific maintenance of environmental conventions, Scientific and Practical Centre of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Biological Resources.

5.3 How many Ramsar Sites have an effective, implemented management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i

*Please select only one option*

E=Exact number (sites)

> 17

F=Less than (sites)

>

G=More than (sites)

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

5.4 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i

*Please select only one option*

E=Exact number (sites)

> 17

F=Less than (sites)

>

G=More than (sites)

>

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

5.5 For how many Ramsar Sites is effective management planning currently being implemented (outside of formal management plans ? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i

*Please select only one option*

E=Exact number (sites)

> 14

F=Less than (sites)

>

G=More than (sites)

>

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

## 5.3 - 5.5 Additional information

> Management Plans for 17 Ramsar sites have been developed and approved. Primary actions of the management plans have been implemented or are under implementation for the most of Ramsar sites.

Management planning is the most effective on those Ramsar sites where the management structures were established (14 state nature conservation management enterprises).

5.6 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 ? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

#### 5.6 Additional information

> Management efficiency is assessed mainly for Ramsar sites with management plans developed. Reports on management plans implementation are discussed on the Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Ramsar Convention Implementation, meetings of other Coordination Councils which ensures assessment of management efficiency. Management plans are revised every 5 years.

5.7 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.4} {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv

*Please select only one option*

- E=Exact number (sites)

> 3

- F=Less than (sites)

>

- G=More than (sites)

>

- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

#### 5.7 Additional information

If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites

> The following Ramsar sites have cross-sectoral management committees (scientific and technical councils): Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve (1927), Dikoe Fen Mire (2263), Pripyatsky National Park (2197). Other several sites (Yelnia, Zvanets, Servech, Olmany Mires Zakaznik, Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik, Sporovsky Biological Reserve) are managed in close cooperation of different organizations (Regional Executive Committees, Forestries, regional inspection of the Ministry of Nature Resources), but formally cross-sectoral management committees are not established.

5.8 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared (see Resolution X.15)? {2.4.5}{2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v

*Please select only one option*

- E=Exact number (sites)

> 26

- F=Less than (sites)

>

- G=More than (sites)

>

- C=Partially
- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

#### 5.8 Additional information

If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites

> During preparation of scientific justification for designation of Ramsar site or Protected area status description of ecological character of the territory is always conducted. Therefore, all 26 Belarussian Ramsar sites have descriptions of their ecological character prepared.

5.9 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Some Sites

## 5.9 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15, and the source of the information

> METT assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management have been made in 2016 for the following Ramsar sites: 1218 Yelnia, 1219 Zvanets, 2250 Servech, 1007 Sporovsky Biological Reserve, 2139 Morochno.

## Target 7

Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed {2.6.}.

7.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Some Sites
- D=Planned

### 7.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established

> Management plans for Ramsar sites are revised per 5 years, and changes in ecological character are assessed during the revision.

There is National system of environmental monitoring in Belarus, which envisages monitoring of the state of ecosystems, animal and plant species from the National Red Data book, as well as species protected under international obligations of the Republic of Belarus, including those growing / inhabiting all the Ramsar sites. Monitoring data are transferred to Protected Areas management authorities for decision making in case of negative changes in ecological character of Ramsar sites.

7.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Some Cases
- O=No Negative Change

### 7.2 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made

> Separate minor problems of negative changes in the state of ecosystems and species due to climate change and unwanted successions (lowering of groundwater level, overgrowth of fen mires and floodplain meadows with shrubs and reeds, etc.) are observed on many Ramsar sites, but these do not lead to significant changes of ecological character. Therefore, these problems are being solved on the national level.

7.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- Z=Not Applicable

### 7.3 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken

> There are no Belarussian Ramsar sites in the Montreux 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 {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

8.1 Does your country have a complete National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=In Progress
- D=Planned

### 8.1 Additional information

> Inventory was conducted of water resources (rivers, lakes, artificial waterbodies) (Water Cadaster), and peatlands, including natural mires (Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030). Wetlands inventory data received are constantly being updated. Inventory of forest ameliorative systems is planned for the nearest years.

### 8.2 Has your country updated a National Wetland Inventory in the last decade?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=In Progress
- C1=Partially
- D=Planned
- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

### 8.2 Additional information

> Wetlands inventory data are being constantly updated, including cadaster data on water resources. Data on peatlands, including natural mires, were updated as well. Inventory of Belarussian peatlands was conducted within the frameworks of development of the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peat Resources of the Republic of Belarus during past 10 years. Inventory and description of the modern state of peatlands by different parameters were carried out based on the decoding of modern space images and field investigations. Borders, area and modern state of natural peatlands were defined. The area of identified and studied peatlands in Belarus is 2560.5 thousand ha (12 % of Belarus' territory). At present there are 1348 mires preserved in natural or close to natural state with overall area about 863 thousand ha (33.7% of the initial area).

### 8.3 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

### 8.3 Additional information

> Data received on wetlands inventory are stored in State agencies, responsible for collection and storage of information. Inventory results are accumulated in Cadasters' databases (Cadaster of Water Resources). Cadastral information on the state of wetlands and water resources is maintained by organizations authorized by the Ministry of Natural Resources. The peatlands database was developed in 2016, which is in free access in internet: <http://www.peatlands.by/>.

### 8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

### 8.4 Additional information

> Cadastral information on the state of wetlands and water resources are either in the open access, or it can be received upon request from organizations and Belarussian citizens. Peatlands database has open access: <http://www.peatlands.by/>.

### 8.5 Has the condition\* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed during the last triennium? {1.1.3}

Please describe on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).

\* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

*Please select only one per square.*

--	--

a) Ramsar Sites	<input type="checkbox"/> N=Status Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> O=No Change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P=Status Improved
b) Wetlands generally	<input type="checkbox"/> N=Status Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O=No Change <input type="checkbox"/> P=Status Improved

### 8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b)

> Over the past three years, there have been both positive and negative changes in the state of wetlands in Belarus. Positive changes are results of implementation of measures, adopted by the Republic of Belarus in the framework of strategies and plans for wetlands conservation. Positive changes are related to improvement of the quality of surface and ground waters, expansion of the protected areas network, including establishment of new Ramsar sites, implementation of activities aimed at conservation of biological and landscape diversity on wetlands and other.

At the same time, Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus and Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands define the main threats to wetlands:

- overgrowth of open natural meadows, fen mires and raised bogs with trees and shrubs as a result of changes in traditional land use, disruptions of hydrological regime, climate change;
- degradation of wetlands as a result of contamination by diffuse effluent from agricultural fields and insufficiently treated waste water;
- degradation of natural ecosystems (rivers, lakes, mires, forests) caused by disruptions of natural hydrological regime as a result of impact of adjacent drained areas, drainage ameliorative systems and hydro-technical constructions;
- degradation of fish spawning grounds (overgrowth of shallow waters with shrubs, reeds, changes in water quality) caused by eutrophication of waterbodies and water courses, changes in their hydrological regime, as well as cessation of hay making and grazing on floodplain meadows.

These changes are not catastrophic for wetlands and Ramsar sites. Measures for threats mitigation are developed in strategic environmental documents and are implemented by stakeholder departments and organizations.

### 8.6 Based upon the National Wetland Inventory if available please provide a baseline figure in square kilometres for the extent of wetlands (according to the Ramsar definition) for the year 2017. SDG Target 6.6

*Please select only one option*

E=Exact Number (km<sup>2</sup>)

> 32280

F=Less than (km<sup>2</sup>)

>

G=More than (km<sup>2</sup>)

>

A=Yes

B=No

C=Partially

D=Planned

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

### 8.6 Additional information

If the information is available please indicate the % of change in the extent of wetlands over the last three years.

> The total share of natural mires in Belarus is 4.5% (863 thousand ha), lakes – about 1% (the area is 200 thousand ha, water volume is 6-7 thousand km<sup>3</sup>), artificial waterbodies – 0.5% (100 thousand ha, water volume is 3.1 thousand km<sup>3</sup>), marshy rivers' floodplains – about 10% (2008 thousand ha), the total length of rivers is 90.6 thousand km, the mid density of river network is 0.44 km /km<sup>2</sup>.

The area and length of wetlands over the last 3 years have not changed.

## Target 9

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

### 9.1 Is a Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) that promotes the wise use of wetlands in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i

If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=In Preparation
- D=Planned

#### 9.1 Additional information

> Strategic goals and measures for sustainable use of wetlands are included in the following strategic planning documents:

- Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020;
- National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas until January 1, 2030;
- Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands;
- Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020;
- State Fishery Development Program (sub-program) for 2016-2020 in accordance with the requirements of biodiversity conservation.

#### 9.2 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.5} {1.3.6}

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=In Progress
- D=Planned

#### 9.2 Additional information

> Above mentioned strategic planning documents have been developed taking into consideration the Ramsar commitments.

#### 9.3 Do your country's water governance and management systems treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {1.7.1} {1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

#### 9.3 Additional information

> Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020 was developed in 2015-2016 and the new edition of the Water Code was prepared. The Water Strategy ensures that interests of natural wetlands will be taken into consideration during development of basin management plans for water resources.

#### 9.4 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.7.2} {1.7.3}

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

#### 9.4 Additional information

> Interdisciplinary councils on management of water basins of rivers Dnieper, Neman, Bug were established, which also deal with establishment of effective approach to communication, education, participation and awareness.

#### 9.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.3} {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

#### 9.5 Additional information

> The following programs have been developed and approved, displaying policy and principles with regard to increasing role of wetlands in mitigation or adaptation to climate change: sub-program "Development of the State Hydrometeorological Service, Mitigation of Climate Change Impact, Improvement of Air and Water Resources Quality", State Program "Environmental Protection", and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources" for

9.6 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.4} {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

9.6 Additional information

> Legal basis for maintenance and improvement of the effective agriculture system (with incorporated wetlands benefits) is partially envisaged by the National Action Plan on Development of “Green” Economy in the Republic of Belarus until 2020, by the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020, as well as by the State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020.

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

Please select only one per square.

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

9.7 Additional information

> Investigation data are presented in the sub-program “Development of the State Hydrometeorological Service, Mitigation of Climate Change Impact, Improvement of Air and Water Resources Quality”, State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016-2020, in description of wetlands and Ramsar sites made during designation and reorganization of protected areas and Ramsar sites, study was also conducted during assessment of ecosystem services, Environmental Impact Assessment for economic activities planning, implementation of monitoring and other scientific programs.

9.8 Has your country submitted a request for Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention, Resolution XII.10 ?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

9.8 Additional information

If ‘Yes’, please indicate How many request have been submitted

> One request is planned to be submitted.

**Target 10**

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

10.1 Have the guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19) been used or applied?.(Action 6.1.2/ 6.1.6)

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No

- C=In Preparation
- C1=Partially
- D=Planned
- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

### 10.1 Additional information

> The guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites have been used and applied through raising awareness of local population about importance and advantages of wetlands and protected areas, popularization of folk culture and traditions, maintenance of ecological centers and museums, development of cooperation of state nature conservation organizations with educational institutions (National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030).

10.2 Have case studies, participation in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands been compiled. Resolution VIII.19 and Resolution IX.21? (Action 6.1.6)

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=In Preparation
- D=Planned

### 10.2 Additional information

If yes please indicate the case studies or projects documenting information and experiences concerning culture and wetlands

> Cultural aspects of wetlands are components of sustainable use of wetlands and are reflected in management plans for Ramsar sites.

10.3 Have the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands been used or applied. (Resolution VII. 8) (Action 6.1.5)

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=In Preparation
- D=Planned

### 10.3 Additional information

If the answer is "yes" please indicate the use or application of the guidelines

> The public and the local population are involved in the processes of adoption of regulatory legal acts and projects of economic and other activities, as well as draft concepts, forecasts, programs and schemes of sectoral development, which realization is connected with biodiversity use, including conservation and use of wetlands through preparation and conduction of public discussions of projects of normative legal acts. Participation of local communities and local people in management of wetlands, including Ramsar sites, is ensured through public discussions of management plans for protected areas, including Ramsar sites. Knowledge and experience of local population are widely used and distributed through development of agro ecotourism in countryside. As of December 1, 2017, Belarus registered 2279 agro homesteads; 301.8 thousand tourists visited them in a year, which is 60.6% higher than in 2010. In 2016 there were more than 200 green routes in the country.

10.4 Traditional knowledge and management practices relevant for the wise use of wetlands have been documented and their application encouraged (Action 6.1.2)

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=In Preparation
- D=Planned

### 10.4 Additional information

> The main nationality of the country is the Belarusians, who make up about 84% of the population. Traditional knowledge of the Belarusian ethnos is documented, observed and taken into account in the development of national legislation, signing of appropriate international agreements and is incorporated into Ramsar convention implementation through participation of the population and self-governing bodies (councils of deputies) in management decision-making at all levels, including public discussions of regulatory legal acts and projects of economic and other activities, as well as draft concepts, forecasts, programs and schemes of sectoral development, which realization is connected with biodiversity use and/or can influence it.



## Target 11

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

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=In Preparation
- C1=Partially
- D=Planned
- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

### 11.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, how many Ramsar Sites and their names

> Ecosystem functions and services provided by Ramsar sites have been assessed for 17 Ramsar sites (with protected area status) during development of management plans (61.5% of Ramsar sites). This allowed increasing sustainability of water use according to ecosystem requirements.

11.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned
- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

### 11.2 Additional information

> Participation of local population in development of touristic and other activities contributes to increasing of incomes and poverty alleviation. Such activities are conducted within 15 Ramsar sites, which are managed by the State Nature Conservation Agencies (68% of all Ramsar sites).

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

### 11.3 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names

> Management plans for Ramsar sites - protected areas necessarily contain a chapter on socio-economic values of wetlands. Management plans are developed and under implementation for 17 Ramsar sites.

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

### 11.4 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names

> Management plans for Ramsar sites - protected areas necessarily contain a chapter on cultural values of wetlands. Management plans are developed and under implementation for 17 Ramsar sites.

## 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. {1.8.}

## 12.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned
- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

### 12.1 Additional information

> The list of degraded peatlands, inefficiently used peatlands and peatlands subject to ecological rehabilitation was elaborated during preparation of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands. This list is in open Internet access – peatlands.by

Restoration of degraded wetlands is one of the priority targets of the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands, Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 – 2020.

## 12.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been effectively implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned
- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

### 12.2 Additional information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Partially’, please indicate, if available the extent of wetlands restored

> More than 26 degraded peatlands with the total area more than 51 thousand ha were restored within the frameworks of several international projects and at the expense of national financing. 11.7 thousand ha out of them were ecologically rehabilitated in 2015-2017.

## 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

## 13.1 Have actions been taken to enhance sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

### 13.1. Additional information

If ‘Yes’, please indicate the actions taken

> National targets for enhancing sustainability of key sectors when they affect wetlands, biodiversity conservation and improving the quality of life at the local level are realized through:

- ensuring sustainable use of water resources of surface and ground waters (Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020);
- ensuring sustainable use of land resources for agriculture (National Action Plan on Development of “Green” Economy in the Republic of Belarus until 2020, State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020, Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and National Action Plan on the Prevention of Land Degradation (including Soils) for 2016-2020);
- ensuring of sustainable use of fauna, including fish resources (State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020 (sub-program “Fishery Development”));
- ensuring of stable functioning of forest ecosystems (State Program “Belarussian Forest” for 2016-2020 (forestry), Forest Code of the Republic of Belarus, State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 - 2020 (nature resources);
- ensuring sustainable agriculture, optimization of the structure of cultivated areas, including increase of areas under perennial grasses to 1 million hectares, organic land use (State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020);

- ensuring sustainable development of peat industry (Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands and Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030;
- ensuring sustainable development of tourism (State Program on Tourism Development "Belarus Hospitable" for 2016 – 2020, and State Program "Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources" for 2016 – 2020 (sub-program "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity"))).

13.2 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.3} {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

#### 13.2 Additional information

> Methods of Strategic Environmental Assessment will be applied in development of programs' strategies and action plans, taking into consideration issues of wetlands conservation (regulatory and legal framework for Strategic Environmental Assessment has been in force since 2017).

13.3 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) from key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries that may affect wetlands?

{1.3.4} {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Some Cases

#### 13.3 Additional information

> The Law "On Environmental Protection" (article 58) of the Republic of Belarus states that Environmental Impact Assessment should be conducted for any planned economic and other activities that may have negative impact on the environment.

Article 7 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On State Ecological Expertise, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment" provides that for economic and other activities planned for construction on Ramsar sites and within 2 kilometers of their borders, environmental impact assessment must be conducted.

## Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

### Target 15

Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention. {3.2.}

15.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

#### 15.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative  
> Not applicable

15.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

#### 15.2 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s)  
> No

## Target 16

Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness {4.1}

16.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i

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

*Please select only one per square.*

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

### 16.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs

> Plans to raise awareness of government agencies, the public, organizations, including non-governmental ones about biodiversity conservation, including wetlands, are envisaged by national environmental strategies: Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020; National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030; Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020.

16.2a How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

a) at Ramsar Sites

*Please select only one option*

E=Exact Number (centres)

> 12

F=Less than (centres)

>

G=More than (centres)

>

C=Partially

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

16.2b How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

b) at other wetlands

*Please select only one option*

E=Exact Number (centres)

>

F=Less than (centres)

>

G=More than (centres)

>

C=Partially

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

## 16.2 Additional information

If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks

> No comments

## 16.3 Does the Contracting Party {4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

Please select only one per square.

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

## 16.3 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved

> Mechanism of involving stakeholders to decision-making, to selection of new Ramsar Sites and Ramsar Site management includes public hearings and discussions during approval of management plans for Ramsar sites - protected areas.

## 16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned  
 X=Unknown  
 Y=Not Relevant

## 16.4 Additional information

If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP12; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has

> Over the reporting period there were 3 meetings of the Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on the Ramsar Convention Implementation, established under the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus.

## 16.5 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned  
 X=Unknown  
 Y=Not Relevant

## 16.5 Additional information

If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP12; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has

> Not applicable

## 16.6 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and a), b) or c) below? {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi:

Please select only one per square.

--	--

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

## 16.6 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please describe what mechanisms are in place

> Mechanism of information sharing at the level of the Ramsar sites is operation of information centers; between Administrative Authority and other MEA national focal points communication takes place through discussion of ways of solution of wetlands' problems using Ramsar implementation guidelines.

16.7 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP12? {4.1.8}

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No

## 16.7 Additional information

> Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities are carried out annually on the 2nd of February under the auspices of the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus.

16.8 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP12 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

## 16.8 Additional information

If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this

> Activities are carried out by separate projects and on separate Ramsar sites. For example, the following activities are carried out on Ramsar sites:

- festival "Sporovsky Haymaking" (within Ramsar site Sporovsky Biological Reserve, the main purpose is revival and maintenance of hand haymaking on mires);
- "Cranes and Cranberry" - the purpose is maintenance of local population traditional trade (cranberry collection) and conservation of the Common crane on the Yelnia mire (Yelnia Ramsar site, Republican Landscape Reserve);
- Cranberry festival at Olmany Mires Ramsar site (Republican Landscape Reserve), etc.

## Target 17

Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 - 2024 from all sources are made available. {4.2.}

17.1a Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2015, 2016 and 2017? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 Z=Not Applicable

17.1b If 'No' in 17.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment

> Not applicable

17.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes

B=No

## 17.2 Additional information

If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities

> Not applicable

17.3 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

Z=Not Applicable

## 17.3 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP12

> Not applicable

17.4 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

C=Partially

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

Z=Not Applicable

## 17.4 Additional information

> Not relevant

17.5 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

Z=Not Applicable

## 17.5 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP12

> International technical assistance projects GEF-UNDP, OMPO, EU have been implemented since 12th Conference of Parties.

International technical assistance projects (grants from international donors GEF-UNDP, LIFE) for about \$ 5 million are under implementation or at the stage of governmental approval. These projects aim at sustainable use of wetlands.

State and local budgets finance separate issues related to designation of wetlands as Ramsar sites and Protected Areas, development of management plans, monitoring, maintenance of Cadasters, and other activities aimed at conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

17.6 Has any financial support been provided by your country to the implementation of the Strategic Plan?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

Z=Not Applicable

## 17.6 Additional information

If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities

> Financial support was provided for measures aimed at effective implementation of 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024 through their inclusion in the governmental, sectoral and regional planning programs, such as:

- State Program "Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources" for 2016 - 2020

(approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus № 205 dated 17.03.2016) - mitigation of climate change impact, improvement of air and water quality; conservation and sustainable use

of biological and landscape diversity; maintenance of the national monitoring system, its development and enhancement;

- State Program "Comfortable Accommodation and a Supportive Environment" for 2016 – 2020, sub-program "Clean Water" (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 21.04.2016 № 326) – protection and sustainable use of surface and ground waters;

- State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020, sub-program 5 "Fishery Development" (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 11.03.2016 № 196) – sustainable use of fish resources;

- State Program "Belarussian Forest" for 2016–2020 (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 18.03. 2016 г. № 215) – sustainable use of forest resources and hunting;

Separate issues of conservation and sustainable use of Ramsar sites (infrastructure development, maintenance of nature conservation organizations, management plans development and other) are included in the regional planning programs.

## Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

18.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.1} {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

### 18.1 Additional information

> National focal points of the Convention on Biodiversity and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification constantly participate in meetings of the National Ramsar Committee.

18.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.2} {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

### 18.2 Additional information

> The main mechanisms are regular meetings and discussions of implementation of international projects with participation of UNEP, UNDP.

18.3 Has your country received assistance from one or more UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO) or the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.ii.

The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, WWF and Wildfowl & Wetland Trust (WWT).

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned  
 X=Unknown  
 Y=Not Relevant

### 18.3 Additional information

If 'Yes' please name the agency (es) or IOP (s) and the type of assistance received

> International projects of GEF-UNDP, EU, BirdLife International – scientific-technical assistance.

18.4 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially



D=Planned

#### 18.4 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved

> There is partnership cooperation with neighboring countries (Lithuania, Ukraine) on issues of established Ramsar sites. There is also cooperation at the level of the Ministry of Environment with neighboring countries on issues of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

18.5 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

#### 18.5 Additional information

> Information on wetlands and Ramsar sites are provided and regularly updated on the web page of the Ministry of Nature Resources <http://www.minpriroda.gov.by/>, as well as on web pages of environmental organizations, including the non-governmental ones.

18.6 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? {3.4.3} KRA 3.4.ii

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

#### 18.6 Additional Information

> Information about all the Belarussian Ramsar sites has been placed on the Ramsar Sites Information Service web page.

18.7 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned  
 Z=Not Applicable

#### 18.7 Additional information

> Partially. Potential Ramsar transboundary sites were identified along the state borders with Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, partially - Ukraine. 4 transboundary Ramsar sites have been designated.

18.8 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned  
 Y=Not Relevant

#### 18.8 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place

> Coordination Councils were established to manage all transboundary Ramsar sites. Cooperative management plan has been developed for the Ramsar site Kotra-Cepkeliai. Management plan for Belarussian-Polish-Ukrainian Biosphere Reserve "Pribuzhskoe Polesie" has been developed, which includes issues on conservation of wetlands of Ramsar site Polesye Valley of River Bug. In 2017-2018 a row of joint actions are planned to be implemented on Belarussian-Ukrainian transboundary Ramsar site Olmany Mires Zakaznik - Perebrody Mires to regulate anthropogenic pressure and reduce fire hazard. Development of management plan for transboundary Belarussian-Lithuanian site Vileity- Adutiskis is planned for 2017-2018.

18.9 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned
- Z=Not Applicable

### 18.9 Additional information

> Belarus has joined the International Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) (within the frameworks of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) on January 1st, 2016 (Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus № 333 dated 21.07.2015).

## Target 19

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

19.1 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

### 19.1 Additional information

> No comments

19.2 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

### 19.2 Additional information

If you answer yes to the above please provide information on which mechanisms and materials

> Issues of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands are included in the personnel education program, including the topic “Nature Conservation and Touristic Activities on Protected Areas”.

19.3a How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP12? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv

a) at Ramsar Sites

Please select only one option

- E=Exact number (opportunities)

>

- F=Less than (opportunities)

>

- G=More than (opportunities)

>

- C=Partially
- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

19.3b How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP12? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv

b) at other wetlands

Please select only one option

- E=Exact number (Opportunities)

>

- F=Less than (Opportunities)

>

- G=More than (Opportunities)
- C=Partially
- X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

### 19.3 Additional information

including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training

> Almost all heads of state environmental institutions dealing with Ramsar sites have been trained at the national and regional levels on biodiversity conservation issues, including those related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the Fourth Strategic Plan for 2016-2024. Directors of state environmental institutions for the management of protected areas that are Ramsar sites participate in special meetings at the Ministry of Natural Resources and other workshops with participation of the experts of the Academy of Sciences on wetlands management, ecotourism development and involvement of local population to the management.

### 19.4 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

D=Planned

Z=Not Applicable

### 19.4 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring

> Comparison of previous Ramsar National Reports data and newly obtained monitoring data have been conducted to assess the current state of implementation of the Convention.

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

### Goal 1

#### Target 1: Wetland benefits

Wetland benefits are featured in national / local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level. Contributes to Aichi Target 2

#### Target 1: Wetland benefits - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

#### Target 1: Wetland benefits - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

#### Target 1: Wetland benefits - National Targets

> To take into account wetland benefits during preparation of draft governmental programs, action plans, schemes and other documents, affecting issues of conservation and use of wetlands.

The last version of the National Strategy for Implementation of the Ramsar Convention was approved in Belarus in 2009. Action Plan on the Realization of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat for 2009-2014 has been developed and successfully implemented. However, analysis of implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan has shown that the measures planned for Implementation of the Ramsar Convention overlap in many ways with other strategic documents on nature conservation and sustainable use. Thus, to prevent duplication of measures planned for implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024, the government has decided not to develop the Action Plan on the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention for the current period, but to include corresponding measures into other thematic strategic planning documents.

#### Target 1: Wetland benefits - Planned activity

> To include wetland benefits in the national strategies and action plans:

- Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable use of Biological Diversity for the 2011-2020;
- National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016-2020;
- National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030;
- Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands;
- Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020;
- other strategies and sectoral development plans.

#### Target 1: Wetland benefits - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> National targets on implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Action Plan for 2016-2024 are reflected in the following documents: National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030; in the national strategies and plans aimed at conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity: Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020, National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016-2020, National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030, Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020, Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands, Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030, and other strategic planning documents of sectoral development in energetics, forestry, agriculture, fishery, hunting and tourism.

## Target 2: Water Use

Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone. Contributes to Aichi Targets 7 and 8 and Sustainable Development Goal 6.3.1

### Target 2: Water Use - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

### Target 2: Water Use - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

### Target 2: Water Use - National Targets

> To ensure sustainable use of water resources, which will respect the ecological requirements of wetland ecosystems and which in the long term do not cause their depletion and thus make it possible to preserve their ability to meet the environmental, economic, aesthetic and other needs of the present and future generations.

Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020 is the main document that defines the basic principles of state policy in the field of use and protection of water resources and water ecosystem conservation, as well as the main activities for the conservation and use of water resources.

Approaches included in the Water Strategy are used for development of predictions, plans and socio-economic development programs, town planning documents of general and special planning.

The main targets of the Water Strategy are:

- ensuring of good quality of surface and ground waters;
- provision of the population, industry and agriculture with adequate quality water;
- mitigation of negative impact of droughts and floods;
- wider use of water bodies for recreational purposes.

### Target 2: Water Use - Planned activity

> 1. To include wetlands' needs into national strategies and plans for use of water resources, implementation of these schemes and strategies:

- Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020;
- Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020;
- National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016-2020;
- Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands;
- Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030.

2. Development of management plans for rivers' basins (Dnieper, Western Dvina, Western Bug, Neman, Pripyat rivers) according to the requirements of biodiversity conservation.

3. To reduce by 30% the surface waters' contamination caused by the inflow of biogenic matter from point or dispersed sources.

4. To increase sustainability of water use taking into account wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services .

### Target 2: Water Use - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> 1. The use of water resources in the Republic of Belarus respects wetland ecosystem needs and let wetlands to fulfill their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale, including at the basin level or along a coastal zone.

The use of water resources in the Republic of Belarus taking into account the necessity to maintain wetland ecosystems is considered in the Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus and in other strategies and water use plans, including Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus , Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands, Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030.

2. Development of management plans is ensured for basins of rivers Dnieper and Western Bug according to the requirements of biodiversity conservation; interdisciplinary coordination councils on issues of these rivers'

water resources conservation and use have been established. Development of the management plan for the Pripjat river basin has been started in 2017.

3. A purposeful activity is carried out to improve the quality of surface and groundwater. Water take out from natural sources has reduced in 2016 in comparison with 2010 by 6.9%, water consumption in the circulating water supply system has reduced by 21.7%, volume of water in the water recycling systems – by 31.0%. Amount of sewage discharge to water bodies has reduced over this period by 8.8%. There is reduction of content of the main biogenic elements (sulfate-ion, chloride-ion, fluoride-ion) and suspended matter in surface waters (with the exception of synthetic surface active substances, the content of which has slightly increased).

Water protection zones and coastal stripes are set for all the waterbodies and watercourses in the Republic of Belarus with limitation of economy activities, which could cause quality worsening of surface and groundwaters. Borders of water protection zones and coastal stripes are defined in land management schemes, urban development projects, state urban cadastre, land cadastral documentation, forest management materials, as well as in documents certifying rights and restrictions (encumbrances) of rights to land plots. These borders are taken into account during development of projects of any economic activity.

4. Wetland ecosystem needs required to fulfill their functions and provide services are taken into account during development of 17 management plans for Protected Areas that are Ramsar sites (65.4% of all Ramsar sites), which let to increase water use sustainability.

### Target 3: Public and private sectors

Public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands. {1.10}. Contributes to Aichi Targets 3, 4, 7 and 8.

#### Target 3: Public and private sectors - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

#### Target 3: Public and private sectors - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

#### Target 3: Public and private sectors - National Targets

> To engage public and private sectors to activities aimed at sustainable use of water and wetlands through applying guidelines and good practices; to diversify the sources of financing for management of Ramsar sites.

#### Target 3: Public and private sectors - Planned activity

> 1. To engage public and private sectors to activities aimed at sustainable use of water and wetlands, also through their participation in work of the Public Coordination Ecological Council and Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention under the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection.

2. Application of incentive measures, stimulating conservation of wetland ecosystems and rational use of water resources.

3. To engage private sector and local population for ensuring financial sustainability of management of wetlands (use of mire biomass, sustainable grazing, mowing, ecological tourism).

#### Target 3: Public and private sectors - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> 1. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus implements a unified state policy and is the governing body in the field of environmental protection, including use of water resources, conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. The Ministry coordinates activity of other Republican bodies of state administration, local executive and regulatory bodies in the sphere of environment. The Public Coordination Ecological Council has been established under the Ministry of Nature Resources to coordinate efforts of governmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector and science. This Council includes about 20 public organizations. If necessary, representatives of business sector are invited to participate in meetings of the Public Coordination Ecological Council, which are held annually. Activity of the Council allows representatives of the public and business sector to participate in discussions of strategic documents' projects, including those on wetlands and water resources use.

2. Application of incentive measures, stimulating conservation of wetland ecosystems and rational use of water resources, is envisaged by the main strategic documents of the Republic of Belarus.

National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2020 (NSUR-2020) is the main political document in the area of Belarus' development; it includes political issues in the Water sector concerning ecological management and environmental protection. This document confirms a row of priorities such as: use of regulating measures and economic incentives to reduce the amount of drinking water used by industrial enterprises and to reduce amount of contaminants in wastewater discharged into waterbodies; applying of water saving technologies; reduction of water loss and unaccounted use of water; and raising awareness among population..

The document "System of measures to strengthen the technological potential of the national economy, allowing it to function on ecological "green" principles" was approved in the Republic of Belarus to encourage private sector. This document defines short-term (until 2015) and long-term (2015-2020) technological, legal and economic measures for "greening", envisages applying of mechanism of "green" state procurements, as well as establishment of different incentives for use of new ecological technologies, including the possibility of reduction of annual environmental tax by the sum of "green" investments.

Besides, a row of other economic instruments is used in Belarus to increase the rate of abidance of ecological legislation in industry and other sectors of economy. Some of these instruments are: environmental tax, tax for the use of natural resources, compensation for damage caused to the environment, payments for utilities

(waste, water supply and sewerage, etc.). Financial incentives are used to attract investments to green technologies and to introduce the ecological management practice.

3. The private sector and the population are involved in ensuring financial sustainability of wetlands management. Thus, on the territory of Ramsar sites Sporovsky Biological Reserve and Zvanets the method of sustainable use of mire biomass in energetics, agriculture and building was successfully tested jointly with private sector to maintain fen mires in open state and protect globally threatened animal species. The financial resources received from this economic activity are used to increase the capacity of environmental institutions and to implement environmental measures on these Ramsar sites. Traditional method of engaging of the private sector and population to ensuring financial sustainability of wetlands management is development of ecological tourism, which is practiced almost on all Ramsar sites.



#### Target 4: Invasive alien species

Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment. Contributes to Aichi Target 9.

##### Target 4: Invasive alien species - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

##### Target 4: Invasive alien species - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

##### Target 4: Invasive alien species - National Targets

> To minimize the negative impact of invasive alien species of wild animals and plants on the state of native species' populations and ecological systems; to improve the mechanisms of prevention of new alien animal and plant species' invasion and lowering the damage caused to the environment.

Measures on invasive alien species control are envisaged by the National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020 and State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 – 2020.

##### Target 4: Invasive alien species - Planned activity

- > 1. Update of the list of invasive alien species of wild animals and plants, which distribution and population size are subject to regulation;
- 2. Implementation of measures on regulation of distribution and population size of the *Heracleum sosnowskyi* and other invasive alien species of wild animals and plants;
- 3. Identification of the main pathways of introduction of invasive alien wild animal and plant species through rivers' basins and transport infrastructure elements; development and implementation of measures for prevention of the invasion.

##### Target 4: Invasive alien species - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

- > 1. The list of invasive alien species of wild animals and plants, which distribution and population size are subject to regulation, was prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. In 2016 this list was revised and updated according to data of invasive species monitoring.
- 2. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection has developed and approved action plans on the restriction of distribution and numbers of the most aggressive alien plant species (*Sosnowsky's hogweed Heracleum sosnowskyi*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, Canadian goldenrod *Solidago canadensis*, *Acer negundo*, black locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Echinocystis lobata*). Measures for eradication of these species are developed and are under implementation. Primary attention is paid to eradication of *Sosnowsky's hogweed Heracleum sosnowskyi*, which poses a threat to the health of the population. In recent years the area occupied by the *Heracleum sosnowskyi*, has shrunk by 5-10% due to implemented measures.
- 3. The scientific support of activities aimed at study and eradication of invasive alien species is conducted within the frameworks of the state scientific-technical programs. The Centre on Invasive Animal Species was established in 2007 as interdisciplinary scientific unit of the Academy of Sciences of Belarus ([www.ias.by](http://www.ias.by)). The aims of the Centre are: preparation, implementation and coordination of activities for detection, evaluation and prediction of the introduction and distribution of invasive animal and plant species on the territory of Belarus; development of measures for prevention, minimization and reduction of damage from distribution of these species; accumulation, compilation and provision of information to interested bodies and departments. State of 15 invasive plant species and 6 invasive animal species is monitored in Belarus within the frameworks of the National environment monitoring system; recommendations on prevention and minimization of damage from their distribution are being developed. A computer data bank has been created and works are carried out on inventory and mapping of habitats of invasive species. A website has been designed and is maintained to familiarize the population with alien invasive species; the database of these species' habitats is maintained (<http://www.ias.by/>).

4. The main pathways of introduction of invasive alien species of wild animal and plant species have been identified, including those through river basins; measures for prevention of the invasion are developed and being realized.

## Goal 2

### Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites

The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective, planning and integrated management {2.1.}. Contributes to Aichi Target 6,11, 12.

#### Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

#### Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

#### Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - National Targets

> To improve management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands by means of development and improvement of Management plans for wetlands and their resources.

Necessity to improve management of protected areas, including Ramsar sites and other wetlands, through effective planning and complex management of nature resources is reflected in the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020, in the National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030, in the National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016-2020.

Target 8 of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020 is: to ensure the protection and sustainable use of natural and near-natural ecological systems most important for landscape and biological diversity conservation (on the territory with the area of at least 22% of the Republic's territory) by means of optimization of the specially protected areas system (at least 8% of the Belarus' territory) and natural areas subject to peculiar protection (at least 13%).

Target 9 of this Strategy is: to ensure protection of wild animal and plant species, listed in the Red Data Book of the Republic of Belarus, stabilization and increase of populations of globally endangered species, including European Bison, Greater Spotted eagle, Great Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Aquatic Warbler and other.

The main targets for Protected Areas development and management (stated by the National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030) are:

- optimization of Protected Areas system
- Protected Areas system spatial development according to the Scheme of Rational Allocation of Specially Protected Areas of Republican Importance and regional schemes of rational allocation of Protected Areas of local importance, and in accordance with the National Ecological Network Scheme
- Improvement of Protected areas management system through development and implementation of management plans for Protected Areas, including Ramsar sites.

#### Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Planned activity

> 1. To develop management plans for 6 Ramsar sites until 2020: Dnieper River Floodplain, Stary Zhaden, Duleby Islands-Zaozerye, Morochno, Servech, Olmany Mires Zakaznik.

2. To implement measures for restoration of the hydrological regime on 4 Ramsar sites: Yelnia, Morochno, Zvanets, Servech.

#### Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> 1. Management plans for 5 Ramsar sites have been developed to the end of 2017: Olmany Mires Zakaznik, Duleby Islands-Zaozerye, Morochno, Servech, Stary Zhaden.

2. Measures for optimization of the hydrological regime have been implemented on 3 Ramsar sites: Yelnia, Morochno, Zvanets.

## Target 7: Sites at risk

Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed {2.6.}. Contributes to Aichi Targets 5, 7, 11, 12.

### Target 7: Sites at risk - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

### Target 7: Sites at risk - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

### Target 7: Sites at risk - National Targets

- > 1. To ensure conservation and maintenance of the ecological character of Ramsar sites on the basis of analysis of anthropogenic threats.
- 2. To define trends and causes of changes occurring in water and mire ecosystems; to elaborate effective measures for their sustainable use and biological diversity monitoring system.

### Target 7: Sites at risk - Planned activity

- > 1. Implementation of the priority actions of the management plans for Ramsar sites to minimize or eliminate existing threats to biodiversity.
- 2. Development and introduction of a system of ecologically and economically effective use of mires' plant biomass in order to reduce their overgrowth with trees, shrubs and reeds.
- 3. Recovery of declining populations of wild animal and plant species listed in the Red Data Book of Belarus; implementation of Action Plans on conservation of wild animal and plant species listed in the National Red Data Book of Belarus.
- 4. Development and implementation of measures for stabilization and increase of populations of globally endangered bird species.
- 5. Monitoring of flora and fauna, complex monitoring of ecological systems within protected areas.

### Target 7: Sites at risk - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

- > 1. Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus defines the main threats to wetlands' biodiversity:
  - overgrowth of open natural meadows, fen mires and raised bogs with trees and shrubs as a result of changes in traditional land use, disruptions of hydrological regime, climate change;
  - degradation of wetlands as a result of contamination by diffuse effluent from agricultural fields and insufficiently treated waste water;
  - degradation of natural ecosystems (rivers, lakes, mires, forests) caused by disruptions of natural hydrological regime as a result of impact of adjacent drained areas, drainage ameliorative systems and hydro-technical constructions;
  - degradation of fish spawning grounds (overgrowth of shallow waters with shrubs, reeds, changes in water quality) caused by eutrophication of waterbodies and water courses, changes in their hydrological regime, as well as cessation of hay making and grazing on floodplain meadows.
  - expansion of invasive alien species of wild animals and plants, extrusion of aboriginal species, and subsequent degradation and transformation of ecosystems;
  - forest and peat fires.
- 2. Analysis of threats to biodiversity has been conducted during development of management plans for 17 Ramsar sites, and based of this analysis, measures and priority actions were developed to minimize or eliminate existing threats.
- 3. System of ecologically and economically effective use of mires' plant biomass (shrubs, reeds, other mire grass) has been developed and applied within Ramsar sites Zvanets (Republican Biological Reserve) and Sporovsky Biological Reserve at an area of 4000 ha. This system allows effectively restore and maintain open fen mires. The developed technology is planned to be used to maintain mire and meadow ecosystems in Belarus at an area of about 500 thousand hectares.
- 3. Measures for stabilization and increasing of globally threatened bird species populations have been

developed and are under implementation: Great spotted eagle (up to 100 - 120 pairs), Aquatic warbler (from 3100 - 5600 to 4000 - 8000 males), Great snipe (from 4600 - 6000 to 5000 - 6500 pairs), Black-tailed godwit (from 6000 - 8500 to 6500 - 9000 pairs). Habitat conditions for the world largest Aquatic warbler populations have been improved due to measures for restoration of open fen mires, implemented within Ramsar sites Zvanets and Sporovsky Biological Reserve. As a result, Aquatic warbler populations on these 2 sites has increased in 1.2-1.5 times in comparison with year 2014.

4. In 2014 the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection has approved a new list of rare and threatened species of wild animals and plants to be included into the Red Data Book of Belarus. Moreover, the Red Data Book contains scientifically founded data on tendencies of species' populations dynamics and proposals for their conservation and restoration of declining populations.

The following technical codes of established practice (TKP) have been developed and approved: TKP 17.05-01-2014 (02120) "Environmental Protection and Nature Use. The Flora. Rules of Protection of Wild Plants from the Red Data Book of Belarus and their habitats"; TKP 17.05-01-2014 (02120) "Environmental Protection and Nature Use. The Flora. Rules of Protection of Wild Plants from the Red Data Book of Belarus and their habitats"; TKP 17.12-06-2014 "Environmental Protection and Nature Use. The Flora. Sites for identification and protection of typical and rare biotopes, typical and rare natural landscapes".

5. There is effectively operating National Environmental Monitoring System in Belarus, providing necessary ecological information to all interested institutions and population, helping them to make operational management decisions, aimed at reduction of anthropogenic threats' impact to biological diversity.

The following types of monitoring are the most important for conservation and sustainable use of wetlands: surface waters monitoring, groundwaters monitoring, monitoring of the flora, monitoring of the fauna, and complex monitoring of ecological systems at Protected Areas.

Monitoring of the Flora is conducted in 5 spheres: monitoring of meadow and meadow-mire vegetation, monitoring of water vegetation, monitoring of protected animal and fungi species, monitoring of resource-forming plant species, monitoring of invasive plants.

Monitoring of the Fauna includes study of wild animals, which are hunting objects, and their habitats; study of wild animals, which are fishing objects, and their habitats; study of wild animals, listed in the National Red Data Book, and their habitats; study of wild animals, protected under international obligations of the Republic of Belarus, and their habitats.

Complex monitoring of ecological systems at Protected Areas is aimed at obtaining temporary layers of monitoring information for forest, mire, meadow and aquatic ecosystems, for separate flora and fauna objects (populations of animal and plant species, listed in the National Red Data Book); at identification of the main factors that have a negative impact on the state of ecosystems of Protected Areas, assessment of their impact degree. Based on the results of monitoring observations, proposals are being developed and submitted for management plans for Protected Areas.

## Goal 3

### Target 8: National wetland inventories

National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i. Contributes to Aichi Targets 12, 14, 18, 19.

#### Target 8: National wetland inventories - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

#### Target 8: National wetland inventories - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

#### Target 8: National wetland inventories - National Targets

> 1. To complete the national inventory of wetlands.

Inventory and update of data on Belarussian wetlands is one of the main goals of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands, State Program "Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources" for 2016 - 2020.

2. To conduct inventory of hydro-ameliorative systems in forests (on peatlands) and identify ways of their use.

#### Target 8: National wetland inventories - Planned activity

> 1. To improve the peatlands inventory system and to conduct peatlands inventory.

#### Target 8: National wetland inventories - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> 1. Inventory of peatlands in Belarus has been conducted within the frameworks of development of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands. The inventory was based on decoding of modern satellite images and field surveys, modern state of peatlands has been described as well. Borders, area and modern state of natural mires were defined. The area of identified and studied peatlands in Belarus is 2560.5 thousand hectares (12% of Belarus' territory). At present, there are 1348 mires with total area about 863 thousand hectares (33.7% of the initial area) preserved in natural or close to natural state.

Based on the data, received during peatlands inventory, a database "Belarussian Peatlands" has been created (peatlands.by). The database let to conduct analysis and generalization of all information obtained and to use it for development of the Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use.

2. Inventory and update of data on Belarussian wetlands is carried out within the frameworks of maintaining of the following State Nature Resources Cadasters: Land Cadaster, Water Cadaster, Climate Cadaster, Forest Cadaster, Fauna Cadaster, Flora Cadaster.

3. Inventory of forest hydro ameliorative systems is envisaged by the National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016-2020. Investigations will be conducted at an area of about 150 thousand hectares. Besides, ways of their effective use will be defined during the inventory, including rewetting of inefficiently used forest peatlands.

## Target 9: Wise Use

The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone {1.3.}. Contributes to Aichi Targets 4, 6, 7.

### Target 9: Wise Use - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

### Target 9: Wise Use - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

### Target 9: Wise Use - National Targets

> The Water Code of the Republic of Belarus was adopted in 1998 and didn't include the basin principle. The new Water Code of April 30, 2014 indicates river basin planning as one of its key principles. Chapter 17 of the Water Strategy (adopted in August 11, 2011) includes provisions on stepwise introduction of basin principles in the water resources management practice of the country. The Strategy and Water Code also provide steps towards harmonization of the water management principles with the ones of the EU WFD. Improvement of the ecological status is defined as the aim in new Water Code and hydro biological, hydrochemical and hydro morphological indicators are to be applied.

Article 15 of the new Water Code determines the main river basins of the country as follows: Dnieper, Western Dvina, Western Bug, Neman and Pripyat. The same article requires the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection to develop River Basins Management Plans (RBMPs) for a period of 5 to 10 years. RBMPs are to be approved by the joint decisions of the corresponding regional executive committees in the territory of which the watershed of respective river is located.

### Target 9: Wise Use - Planned activity

> 1. To develop River Basins Management Plans for Dnieper, Western Dvina, Western Bug, Neman, Pripyat rivers.

### Target 9: Wise Use - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> River Basins Management Plans for Dnieper, Western Bug, and Neman rivers have been developed and agreed with stakeholders. There are Interdisciplinary Coordination Councils, consolidating the efforts of state bodies, local authorities, scientists and the public on issues of water resources use and protection. River Basin Management Plan for the Pripyat River is under development; River Basin Management Plan for Western Dvina is planned to be developed until 2020.

## Target 10: Traditional Knowledge

The traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels. Contributes to Aichi Target 18.

### Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

### Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

### Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - National Targets

> Raising awareness of public and local people about importance and advantages of Protected areas, ensuring their participation in PAs management, popularization of folk culture elements and traditions, maintenance of ecological centers, museums, development of cooperation between state environmental institutions with educational institutions (National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030).

Knowledge and experience of local population are widely used and distributed through engagement of rural population to the development of "green tourism", which main directions in Belarus are: ecological tourism, agro ecotourism and greenways.

"Green tourism" is the base for implementation of projects related to conservation of natural landscapes, cultural heritage and ecological tourism. It is intensively developing in Protected Areas, including most of internationally important wetlands in Belarus.

Complex of measure are being implemented for development and promotion of ecotourism on protected areas for the period till 2025, approved by the Government of the Republic of Belarus.

Issues on development of ecotourism activities are included in related national strategies and state programs: Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020, National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030, National Program on Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2020, State Program on Tourism Development "Belarus Hospitable" for 2016 - 2020.

### Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Planned activity

- > 1. Preparation and establishment of ecological trails within protected areas;
- 2. Inclusion of protected areas' ecological trails and green paths into touristic routes;
- 3. Preparation of complex multi-day ecological tours within the territories of forestries and hunting agencies;
- 4. Development and marketing of a tourist product for protected areas;
- 5. Establishment and maintenance of ecological centers, other similar objects within protected areas;
- 6. Development of volunteering and involvement of volunteers, stakeholders' representatives in decision making on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

### Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> The public and the local population are involved in the processes of adoption of regulatory legal acts and projects of economic and other activities, as well as draft concepts, forecasts, programs and schemes of sectoral development, which realization is connected with biodiversity use, including conservation and use of wetlands through preparation and conduction of public ecological assessment of projects.

Participation of local communities and local people in management of wetlands, including Ramsar sites, is ensured through public hearings and discussions of management plans for protected areas, including Ramsar sites.

Public and local population are actively involved into development of a system of ecological centers, museums, ecological trails and greenways. There are more than 70 ecological trails and routes within



Protected Areas and on territories of Forestries, more than 600 ecological trails maintained by educational institutions. More than 80 of them are included into a list of ecological trails and routes, approved by the Government of the Republic of Belarus.

Knowledge and experience of local population are widely used and distributed through development of agro ecotourism in countryside. 2279 agro homesteads were available in Belarus in 2016 (in 2014 there were 2037 agro homesteads), 301.8 thousand tourists visited them in a year. In 2016 there were more than 200 green routes in the country.

Folk culture elements and traditions are popularized through festivals, carried out on Ramsar sites, contributing to revival and conservation of folk traditions: festival "Sporovsky Haymaking" (Sporovsky Biological Reserve, the purpose is revival and maintenance of hand haymaking on mires); "Cranes and Cranberry" – the purpose is maintenance of local population traditional trade (cranberry collection) and conservation of the Common crane on the Yelnia Ramsar site (Republican Landscape Reserve); Cranberry festival at Olmany Mires Ramsar site (Republican Landscape Reserve), etc.

## Target 11: Wetland functions

Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. {1.4}.  
Contributes to Aichi Targets 1, 2, 13, 14.

### Target 11: Wetland functions - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

### Target 11: Wetland functions - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

### Target 11: Wetland functions - National Targets

> 1. To develop and use the techniques of estimation of the cost value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and integrate them into projects of concepts, forecasts, programs, schemes of sectoral development, which realization is connected with biodiversity use and (or) could influence it.

This target is one of the targets of the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020.

### Target 11: Wetland functions - Planned activity

> 1. Identification of the legal framework for payments for ecosystem services, improvement of technique for assessment of the cost value of ecosystem services.

2. Conducting assessment of ecosystem services for Ramsar sites.

3. Involvement of flora and fauna resources in economic in order to use them sustainably.

4. The functions, services and benefits of wetlands are widely reported and communicated to a wide range of people

5. Implementation of programs and projects contributing to poverty reduction.

### Target 11: Wetland functions - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> 1. Legal framework for payments for ecosystem services is under development: a technical normative legal act TKP 17.02-10-2013 "Environmental Protection and Nature Resources Use. The procedure for determining the cost value of ecosystem services and determining the cost value of biological diversity" is approved. This document can be used for assessment of the cost value of biodiversity in case of areas allocation for peat extraction, during development of complex schemes of rational use and conservation of nature resources, in environmental impact assessment, during elaboration of justifications for PA designation, in development of land management schemes of administrative districts, state programs, etc.

2. Assessment of ecosystem services has been conducted for 11 Ramsar sites during development of management plans. Ecosystem services have been integrated into action plans for these sites.

3. One of the forms of ecosystem services use is the involvement of flora and fauna resources in the development of ecotourism in specially protected natural areas (ornithological, botanical tourism) and further involvement of financial resources received into biodiversity conservation and development of touristic infrastructure.

4. The functions, services and benefits of wetlands are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated to a wide range of people through website of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection and its local departments, webpages of Ramsar sites with state management units established, through mass media, publication of printed products (booklets, books, etc.), by holding festivals in specially protected natural areas.

Assessment of cost value of biodiversity and ecosystem services is included in the course "Economy of Nature Use" for future ecologists in several Belarussian Universities.

5. Integration of ecosystem, cultural and recreational services into the management plans promotes the involvement of local people into development of tourism and other activities, and thus contributes to income increase and poverty reduction of population of Ramsar sites. Such activities are carried out on 15 Ramsar sites with management units established (State Protected Area Management Enterprises).

## Target 12: Restoration

Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation. {1.8.}.  
Contributes to Aichi Targets 14 and 15.

### Target 12: Restoration - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

### Target 12: Restoration - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

### Target 12: Restoration - National Targets

> To ensure restoration of 15% of degraded and inefficiently used ecological systems.

Restoration of degraded wetlands is one of priorities of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020, Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands, Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The main priority of these strategic documents in the sphere of wetlands restoration is ecological rehabilitation of mires disturbed by peat extraction and ineffective use, as well as restoration of open sedge mires - habitats of globally threatened animal species, overgrown with trees, shrubs and reeds.

### Target 12: Restoration - Planned activity

> 1. Development and Implementation of the Strategy on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands and Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030, as it is planned in the National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016-2020.

2. Development and testing of the technology of accelerated recovery of open sedge fen mires at degraded peatlands. This activity is envisaged by the National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016-2020, and Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands (improvement of technology of accelerated recovery of degraded mire ecosystems by means of mire plants planting). This activity is planned to be implemented at an area of at least 500 ha of a peat deposit, withdrawn from exploitation, with use of genetic material taken from similar parts of Ramsar sites Zvanets and Sporovsky Biological Reserve.

3. Environmental rehabilitation of disturbed peatlands (depleted parts of peat deposits, degraded lands with peat soils, mires ineffectively drained by forest amelioration).

National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020 envisages restoration of 15% of degraded and inefficiently used ecological systems until 2020, including ecological rehabilitation of mires disturbed by peat extraction and ineffective drainage.

Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands envisages restoration of disturbed mires at an area of at least 75000 hectares (15% of all disturbed mires).

Restoration of degraded mires is one of the priorities of Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. It is planned that the area of degraded drained lands with peat soils by 2020 will not exceed 200 thousand hectares, by 2030 - will not exceed 190 thousand hectares.

### Target 12: Restoration - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> By the present time, 62.7 thousand hectares of disturbed peatlands have been restored in Belarus, about 51 thousand hectares of them were restored before 2015, and 11.7 thousand hectares - after 2015. One of the most important results in this area is completion of works on restoration of the hydrological regime in Ramsar site and Republican Landscape Reserve Yelnia, which is the largest massif of raised bogs in Central Europe. Open sedge mires have been restored and system of ecologically and economically effective use of mires' vegetation biomass has been developed and applied in the Republican Landscape Reserve "Zvanets" and Republican Biological Reserve "Sporovsky" (Ramsar sites Zvanets and Sporovsky Biological Reserve) at the area of about 3500 ha. The following activities were implemented within the frameworks of this measure: removal of trees and shrubs, reeds and other grass mowing. Harvested vegetation biomass is used for energy, agricultural and other purposes, taking into account the interests of the local population.

### **Target 13: Enhanced sustainability**

Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods. Contributes to Aichi Targets 6 and 7.

#### Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

#### Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

#### Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - National Targets

> National targets for enhancing sustainability of key sectors when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods:

- to ensure sustainable use of water resources of surface and ground waters (this target is envisaged by the Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020);
- to ensure sustainable use of land resources for agriculture (National Action Plan on Development of "Green" Economy in the Republic of Belarus until 2020, State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020);
- to ensure sustainable use of fauna, including fish and hunting resources (State Program "Belarussian Forest" for 2016-2020 (forestry), State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020 (sub-program "Fishery Development"));
- to ensure stable functioning of forest ecosystems (State Program "Belarussian Forest" for 2016-2020 (forestry), State Program "Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources" for 2016 - 2020 (nature resources));
- to ensure sustainable agriculture, optimization of the structure of cultivated areas, including increase of areas under perennial grasses to 1 million hectares, organic land use (State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020);
- to ensure sustainable development of peat industry (Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands and Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030);
- to ensure sustainable development of tourism (State Program on Tourism Development "Belarus Hospitable" for 2016 - 2020, and the State Program "Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources" for 2016 - 2020 (sub-program "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity")).

#### Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Planned activity

> 1. To enhance sustainability of hunting, including:

- improvement of hunting management taking into account biodiversity conservation interests (within the framework of the State Program "Belarussian Forest" for 2016-2020);
- elaboration of management plans for populations of particular animal game species (Elk, Deer, and others);
- creation and maintenance of grouse breeding farm (Tetraonidae family).

2. To enhance sustainability of fishing, including:

- development and implementation of the State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020 (sub-program "Fishery Development");
- creation of special fish hatcheries and reproduction complexes for valuable aboriginal fish species, formation of broodstocks of valuable aboriginal fish species;
- creation of the database of valuable fish species' spawning grounds, implementation of fish-rearing ameliorative works aimed at improvement of conditions for fish natural reproduction;
- development and adoption of biotechnical standards for stocking the fishing grounds and sustainable use of fish resources.

3. Improvement of strategic approaches to Forestry development in line with the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources, including:

- phased transfer to forest fund of inefficient agricultural and degraded lands, suitable for afforestation and growing of forests and target tree plantations;
- reforestation and afforestation aimed at increasing of the share of broad-leaved tree species in the total reforestation and afforestation area;
- development of the Action Plan for forestry adaptation to climate change till 2030;

- forest management and use in line with international criteria of sustainable forest management.  
4. Optimisation of structure of agricultural and cultivation lands to meet the requirements of biodiversity conservation.

#### Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> 1. The State Program "Belarussian Forest" for 2016-2020 (approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus № 215 dated 18.03.2016) has been developed and approved in 2016, which envisages improved mechanisms of hunting development in line with requirements of biodiversity conservation. The main tasks of the Program are to increase populations of game animal species, primarily, ungulates (elk, deer, roe deer) to optimal sizes and to ensure their ecologically sustainable use, and to ensure availability of hunting for Belarussian citizens.

Development, updating and implementation of management plans for populations of separate animal species (brown bear, lynx, European bison) are being carried out; development of management plan for belarussian population of Red deer and Elk is planned until 2020.

The grouse breeding farm (Tetraonidae family) is created and is being maintained in the Republican Landscape Reserve "Nalibokskiy". It is planned that the population size of Capercaillie will increase by 5% to 2020 due to protection and biotechnical measures.

2. State Program on Development of Fishery Activities for 2011-2015 has been successfully completed in 2015, its main results are:

- fish hatcheries and reproduction complexes for production of fish seed material of aboriginal fish species have been reconstructed and modernized;
  - nurse pond lines were restored, basin complexes were reconstructed, reproductive complexes for growing salmon, sturgeon, and catfish species were upgraded;
  - artificial reproduction of fish resources was expanded; formation of gene pool collections and broodstocks of valuable native fish species were conducted;
  - measures are developed and implemented for creation of favorable conditions for fish natural reproduction and conservation and restoration of fish habitats;
  - commercial fishing and fishing grounds exploitation regimes have been optimized taking into account the state of the resource base, admissible degree of its use, methods and ways of fish resources replenishment.
- The Concept of fishery development in the Republic of Belarus was developed in 2015, defining fishing development goals for 2016-2020, including: ensuring rational (sustainable) use of fish resources while preserving and restoring fish species and other flora and fauna species diversity, their habitats, creating conditions for satisfying the needs of citizens in fishing, developing recreation and sport fishing.

State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020 (sub-program "Fishery Development") has been developed and is under implementation.

Introduction of fish seed material of aboriginal fish species into fishing grounds is conducted (it is planned to introduce to natural water bodies and water courses 420 million individuals of native fish species), restoration of these species' populations and their production volume are ensured; broodstocks of valuable native fish species are formed. The database of valuable fish species' spawning grounds is created and being updated. Conditions for natural fish reproduction are improved. Fish-rearing ameliorative works are implemented, including restoration of spawning grounds in floodplains of rivers Pripyat, Dnieper, Neman.

3. State Program "Belarussian Forest" for 2016-2020 and new edition of the Forest Code have been approved in 2016, aiming at improvement of strategic approaches to forestry development in line with the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.

The new Forest Code presents new approach to protection and sustainable use of forests. All Belarussian forests are divided into 4 categories according to their functional use: exploitation forests (48% of the total forest area) and forests, performing ecological functions: nature protection, recreation-health and protective forests.

There is phased transfer to forest fund of inefficient agricultural and degraded lands, suitable for afforestation and growing of forests and target tree plantations. As of January 1, 2016, the forest cover of the territory of Belarus was determined at the level of 39.9%, which significantly exceeds the world average. It is planned that by 2020 the forest cover of Belarus will be increased to 40.1% of the country's territory.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection has approved Strategy for Forestry Adaptation to Climate Change until 2050, which is based on increasing of proportion of forests, resistant to unfavorable climate changes through increasing of share of resistant plantations - mixed in composition, complex in structure, more adaptable to fluctuations of groundwater level.

Forest management and forest use in the Republic of Belarus are conducted in line with international criteria of sustainable forest management. As of January 1, 2017, 90 Forestries, or 7.7 million hectares of forest fund (92.1% of the whole forest fund of the Ministry of Forestry) have been certified according to FSC standards.

Forest restoration and afforestation program in the Republic of Belarus ensures:

- obligatory restoration of fellings, burnt areas and other lands of forest fund not later than 2-3 years after they appear;
- conformity of tree species to the conditions of the site of occurrence;

- rational use of forest fund lands;
- conservation of biological diversity and gene pool of forests;
- increase in the area of oak, ash and linden forests;
- creation of mainly mixed by species composition forest stands;
- strengthening of water-protective, protective, health-improving properties of forests, as well as their productivity and sustainability;
- preservation (increase) of forest cover and its administrative-territorial units;
- satisfaction of the socio-economic needs of society in a variety of forest products and forest benefits.

In 2016 forest restoration and afforestation were conducted at an area of 37.2 thousand hectares. The share of mixed tree species plantations in the total share of reforestation and afforestation works has increased; proportion of mixed forest species in 2016 has increased by 2.3% of the previous year level and the mean annual value has increased by more than 20% over the last 10 years.

4. State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020 has been approved in the Republic of Belarus in 2016. The program envisages structure optimization of agricultural and cultivated lands to meet biodiversity conservation requirements. It is planned to increase areas under perennial grasses to 1 million hectares till 2020. Ineffectively used agricultural lands with total area 58.6 thousand hectares are planned to be transferred for natural overgrowth or rewetting to ensure ecological safety of the environment.

## Goal 4

### Target 15: Regional Initiatives

Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention. {3.2.}

#### Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

#### Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

#### Target 15: Regional Initiatives - National Targets

> Republic of Belarus is not included into Ramsar Regional Initiatives.

#### Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Planned activity

> No answer

#### Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> Not applicable

## Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use

Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness {4.1}. Contributes to Aichi Target 1 and 18.

### Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

### Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

### Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - National Targets

> 1. To raise the awareness of the state agencies, population and other organizations, including non-governmental ones, about the state and values of biodiversity and measures that should be taken to conserve and use it sustainably.

This target is envisaged by the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020.

### Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Planned activity

> 1. Creation and up-to-date maintenance of the biodiversity sections (pages) on websites of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Regional Executive Committees, Minsk City Executive Committee.

2. Publishing and distribution of biodiversity information materials (booklets, posters, calendars), including those on wetlands conservation issues.

3. Preparation and establishment of ecological trails within Ramsar sites.

4. Preparation of complex multi-day ecological tours within the territories of forestries and hunting agencies.

5. Inclusion of protected areas' ecological trails and green paths into touristic routes.

6. Development and marketing of a tourist product for protected areas, including Ramsar sites.

7. Establishment and maintenance of ecological centers, other similar objects within protected areas, including Ramsar sites.

8. Extension of the network of "Green schools".

9. Preparation and conducting of press conferences, thematic briefings, exhibitions on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (dedicated to the World Wetlands Day, International Day for Biological Diversity, World Soil Day, International Bird Day and other environmental dates).

### Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> Information on the Ramsar Convention, Belarussian Ramsar sites and other wetlands, materials dedicated to the International Wetlands Day are regularly placed on the webpages of the Ministry of Nature Resources ([www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by)), regional and district executive committees, Minsk City Executive Committee. Official touristic portal of the Republic of Belarus <http://belarustourism.by> contains up-to-date information on the most important republican protected areas, including those designated as Ramsar sites.

At least 50 kinds of biodiversity information materials (booklets, leaflets, posters, calendars, etc.) are published and distributed annually, including those on wetlands conservation issues. State Nature Conservation Enterprises, managing Ramsar sites and wetland protected areas, with support of the Ministry of Nature Resources and regional executive committees, publish booklets with information on touristic and natural features of these areas.

About 60 ecological trails and routes have been established within 18 Ramsar sites, which are regularly used for informational purposes. 1-day and multi-day ecological tours are conducted, including water tours, hiking, biking, horse-riding tours; botanical and scientific tourism, birdwatching are practiced. Informational ecological centers have been established within 15 Ramsar sites. These centers mainly deal with raising awareness of local people and tourists about the value of wetlands.

Network of "green schools" is expanding in the country. Currently about 150 educational institutions participate in this program. It is designed for pupils of the first - ninth grades and includes work in several areas: biodiversity, energy efficiency, water, waste, local community.



The following events are organized and held regularly: press conferences, thematic briefings, speeches on republican or regional radio and television, exhibitions on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including those, dedicated to the World Wetlands Day, International Day for Biological Diversity, World Soil Day, International Bird Day and other environmental dates (at least 5 conferences and 20 seminars and round tables). National birdwatching competitions and national campaign "Bird of the year" are held annually, postmarks and commemorative coins dedicated to Ramsar sites are issued. Documentary film "Mires will live!" has been prepared within the framework of the UNDP-GEF project "Restoration and Sustainable Management of Peatlands of Belarus". The web database "Belarussian Peatlands" was created (peatlands.by), which contains data on peatlands inventory and serves for systematization and informing of all stakeholders, organizations, citizens about modern state (area, borders, protection status and use) of Belarussian peatlands.

## Target 17: Financial and other resources

Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available. {4.2.}. Contributes to Aichi Target 20.

### Target 17: Financial and other resources - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

### Target 17: Financial and other resources - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

### Target 17: Financial and other resources - National Targets

> 1. To ensure the mobilization of financial resources for implementing the measures on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (as envisaged by the National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030).

There is developed system of strategic planning in Belarus, including planning finances allocated for environmental measures, for actions on implementation of the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan. Sources of nature conservation activities financing are set in different state, regional and sectoral programs. State programs are financed at the expense of revenues of the consolidated state budget. Regional programs are approved by local councils of deputies and are funded in full or in part from local budgets. Sectoral programs are aimed at the implementation of tasks and functions assigned to the republican government bodies; they can be financed at the expense of the republican budget, local budgets and state extra-budgetary funds.

Sources of environmental activities financing are also loans and grants from international donors, approved by the government as international technical assistance.

### Target 17: Financial and other resources - Planned activity

> 1. To ensure financial support to issues of effective implementation of the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024 through their inclusion into state, regional and sectoral planning programs.

2. Elaboration of proposals on raising the international technical assistance for implementation of projects on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

### Target 17: Financial and other resources - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> Financial support was provided for measures aimed at effective implementation of 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024 through their inclusion in the governmental, sectoral and regional planning programs, such as:

- State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 - 2020 (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus № 205 dated 17.03.2016) – mitigation of climate change impact, improvement of air and water quality; conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity; maintenance of the national monitoring system, its development and enhancement;
- State Program “Comfortable Accommodation and a Supportive Environment” for 2016 – 2020, sub-program “Clean Water” (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 21.04.2016 № 326) – protection and sustainable use of surface and ground waters;
- State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020, sub-program 5 “Fishery Development” (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 11.03.2016 № 196) – sustainable use of fish resources;
- State Program “Belarusian Forest” for 2016–2020 (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 18.03. 2016 г. № 215) – sustainable use of forest resources and sustainable hunting. Separate issues of conservation and sustainable use of Ramsar sites (infrastructure development, maintenance of nature conservation organizations, management plans development and other) are included in the regional planning programs.

International technical assistance projects (grants from international donors) for about \$ 5 million are under implementation or at the stage of governmental approval. These projects aim at sustainable use of wetlands.

## Target 18: International cooperation

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

### Target 18: International cooperation - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

### Target 18: International cooperation - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

### Target 18: International cooperation - National Targets

> 1. To strengthen the international cooperation in the area of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Belarus has joined the most important environmental conventions and protocols related to wetlands conservation. Multifaceted international cooperation on environmental issues and nature management is being implemented, country representatives participate in the work of intergovernmental organizations and bodies in the field of wetland conservation.

The need to develop international cooperation in the field of biodiversity conservation, including wetlands, is reflected in the country's main strategic documents: National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2020, national strategies aimed at conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity - Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020; National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030; Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020.

### Target 18: International cooperation - Planned activity

- > 1. Compliance with obligations under international agreements in the field of environmental protection and rational nature use.
2. Expansion of the international cooperation in the field of environmental protection and rational nature use.
3. Extension of a network of protected areas of international importance in the state border regions, including Ramsar sites.
4. Inclusion of natural areas of the Republic of Belarus, approved by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, into the Emerald network.
5. Interstate cooperation on transboundary wetlands, including development of interstate and national legal documents on monitoring of contamination, implementation of international projects aimed at development of complex management schemes for water resources in basins of Dnieper, Western Bug and Neman rivers.
6. Improvement of standards in the field of surface waters quality and bringing them in line with international requirements.
7. Participation of representatives of the Republic of Belarus in events, organized in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international agreements of the Republic of Belarus.

### Target 18: International cooperation - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> International cooperation is expanding in the field of environmental protection, including wetlands conservation issues. Belarus has joined the International Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) (within the frameworks of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) on January 1st, 2016 (Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus № 333 dated 21.07.2015).

Transboundary Ramsar sites are being identified and established. In 2015 Belarussian-Ukrainian transboundary Ramsar site Olmany Mires Zakaznik - Perebrody Mires has been established, in 2016 - transboundary Belarussian-Lithuanian Ramsar site Vileity- Adutiskis.

To manage wetlands in the floodplain of Western Dvina River, the transboundary Belarussian-Latvian protected area "Augsdaugava - Braslaw Lakes" was established in 2014 and the cooperative management plan was developed.

13 new Belarussian wetlands were designated as Ramsar sites in 2014-2016: Polesye Valley of River Bug, Servedch, Vileity, Dnieper River Floodplain, Golubickaya Puscha, Drozbitka-Svina, Dikoe Fen Mire, Svislochsko-Berezinskiy, Iput River Floodplain, Podvelikiy Moh, Pripyatski National Park, Vydritsa, Kozyansky.

Works on forming of Emerald network in Belarus are being conducted, currently it includes 155 sites, including almost all Ramsar sites. .

In accordance with bilateral agreements, Belarus cooperates with neighboring countries on common transboundary water resources. There is joint Belarussian-Russian commission on transboundary waters in basins of rivers Dnieper, Western Dvina and Neman (in accordance with agreement with Russian Federation); there is agreement with Ukraine on joint use and protection of transboundary waters in basins of rivers Dnieper, Pripjat and Western Bug; there is agreement with Poland on river Western Bug. Issues related to cross-border cooperation on water bodies are included in the agreements on environmental protection between Belarus and Latvia regarding the Western Dvina River. Belarus and Lithuania are working on the development of an inter-ministerial technical protocol on cooperation in the field of protection and use of water resources in the transboundary basin of the Neman River. According to the relevant agreements, Belarus and neighboring countries exchange hydrological data and information on water quality, agree on measures for the protection and use of water resources and coordinate actions to mitigate the effects of floods and other emergencies.

There is regular exchange of experience on management of fen mires of Belarus (Ramsar sites Zvanets, Sporovsky Biological Reserve) with Poland (Ramsar site Biebrzanski National Park), Ukraine and Hungary, also through participation of experts and managers of Ramsar sites in annual meetings of Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team.

Joint meetings of Ramsar Councils of Belarus and Lithuania are held.

The participation of the representatives of the Republic of Belarus in the activities carried out within the framework of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention is ensured.

## Target 19: Capacity Building

Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced. Contributes to Aichi Targets 1 and 17.

### Target 19: Capacity Building - Priority

*Please select only one option*

- A=High
- B=Medium
- C=Low
- D=Not relevant
- E=No answer

### Target 19: Capacity Building - Resourcing

*Please select only one option*

- A=Good
- B=Adequate
- C=Limiting
- D=Severely limiting
- E=No answer

### Target 19: Capacity Building - National Targets

> 1. To enhance capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 among state agencies and other organizations, including non-governmental ones, with the active involvement of wetland managers and users.

### Target 19: Capacity Building - Planned activity

- > 1. To develop main strategic documents and action plans aimed at effective implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016 – 2024 in Belarus till 2015.
- 2. To ensure effective work of Interdepartmental Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention under the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus.
- 3. Training of personnel, including employees of state environmental institutions, on issues of implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016 – 2024.
- 4. Publication of educational and methodological manuals on the protection and sustainable use of wetlands.
- 5. Creation of infrastructure, purchases of machinery and equipment necessary for effective conservation activities in the territory of Ramsar sites.
- 5. Conducting of conferences, seminars, round tables on issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including wetlands.
- 6. Development of volunteering and involvement of volunteers, stakeholders' representatives in decision making on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

### Target 19: Capacity Building - Outcomes achieved by 2018

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

**Note:** this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

> To enhance capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024, the main strategies and plans have been updated: National Strategy and Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020, National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030 and Scheme of Rational Allocation of Specially Protected Areas of Republican Importance till January, 1, 2025, Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020. Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands and Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030 were developed and approved.

Interdepartmental Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention under the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus works effectively. Regular meetings are held, informational materials on work of the Coordination Council are placed on the webpage of the Ministry of Nature Resources. Directores of State Nature Conservation Enterprises, which are management units of Ramsar sites, are involved to the Council's work.

Personnel training according to the program “Nature Conservation and Touristic Activities on Protected Areas” is conducted on the basis of the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Environment. Almost all heads of state nature conservation enterprises (Ramsar sites management units) have been trained at the national and regional levels on biodiversity conservation issues, including those related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the Fourth Strategic Plan for 2016-2024. Directors of Ramsar sites management units participate in special meetings at the Ministry of Natural Resources and other workshops with participation of the experts of the Academy of Sciences on wetlands management, ecotourism development and involvement of local population to the management.

Ramsar sites' technical capacity building is enhanced within the framework of the State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 – 2020, international projects

and programs: informational centers have been equipped in Ramsar sites Elnya and Polesye Valley of River Bug; new ecological trails have been created in Elnya Ramsar site; ecological tourism facilities are being constructed in Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve (Ramsar site); historical and ethnographic complex "Open Air Museum" has been built in the Pripyatsky National Park Ramsar site; special machinery for management of Ramsar sites Sporovsky Biological Reserve and Zvanets and other equipment were purchased.

## **Section 5: Optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that so wishes to provide additional information regarding any of all of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)**

### **Guidance for filling in this section**

1. Contracting Parties can provide additional information specific to any or all of their designated Ramsar Sites, given that the situation and status of individual Ramsar Sites can differ greatly within the territory of a Contracting Party.
  2. The only indicator questions included in this section are those from Section 3 of the COP13 NRF which directly concern Ramsar Sites.
  3. In some cases, to make them meaningful in the context of reporting on each Ramsar Site separately, some of these indicator questions and/or their answer options have been adjusted from their formulation in Section 3 of the COP13 NRF.
  4. Please include information on only one site in each row. In the appropriate columns please add the name and official site number (from the Ramsar Sites Information Service).
  5. For each 'indicator question', please select one answer from the legend.
  6. A final column of this Annex is provided as a 'free text' box for the inclusion of any additional information concerning the Ramsar Site.
- A final column of this Annex is provided as a 'free text' box for the inclusion of any additional information concerning the Ramsar Site.

### **Belarus**

#### **Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve (1927)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> The Ramsar site Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve is fully coincides with borders of the same-named National Protected area. The Scientific-technical Council was established for coordination of scientific and production activities of the Reserve. The Council includes the main specialists of the Reserve, as well as representatives of Ministries involved and scientific-research institutes of the Academy of Sciences.

The separate State Nature Conservation Agency was established and the Management Plan was elaborated for management of the Reserve, including wetlands. The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council. Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period. Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was conducted during elaboration of the management plan of the Reserve.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Reserve as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through discussion and control of realization of the Management plan and through other administrative and communication mechanisms (Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.).

## Dikoe Fen Mire (2263)

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan



11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> The Ramsar site Dikoe Fen Mire is part of the National Park Bielovezhskaya Puscha. The Scientific-technical Council was established for coordination of scientific and production activities of the Bielovezhskaya Puscha National Park. The Council includes the main specialists of the National Park, as well as representatives of the involved Ministries and scientific-research institutes of the Academy of Sciences. The National Park is managed by the separate State Nature Conservation Agency and Management Plan was elaborated for management of the National Park, including wetlands, and was approved by the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus. The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council. Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the National Park as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

Information sharing between the State Nature Conservation Agency managing the National Park and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms, as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## Dnieper River Floodplain (2244)

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Management Plan for the Ramsar site Dnieper River Floodplain has not been elaborated; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the Regional Executive Committee) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Drozbitka-Svina (2261)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Management Plan for the Ramsar site Drozbitka-Svina has not been elaborated; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.

Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was conducted in the frameworks of the scientific-technical-economic justification for the designation of the National Protected Area. Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the Regional Executive Committee) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Duleby Islands-Zaozerye (2138)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar

## Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

## 11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

## 16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

## 16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

## Any additional comments/information about the site

> Management plan for the Ramsar site Duleby Islands-Zaozarye was elaborated in 2016 and in 2017 this management plan is under negotiation and approval. National assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management is planned to be started in 2017 as a part of annual reporting on implementation of the Management plan.

Assessment of the ecosystem benefits/services was conducted during development of the Management plan for the protected area.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the Regional Executive Committee) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Golubickaya Puscha (2266)**

### 5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

### 5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

### 11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the Regional Executive Committee) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Iput River Floodplain (2262)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially

D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

C=Partially

Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

C=Partially

Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Management Plan for the Ramsar site Iput River Floodplain has not been elaborated; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made. Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the Regional Executive Committee) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Kotra (1216)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

C=Partially

D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> The Ramsar site Kotra is included in the Landscape Reserve of the Republican value Kotra. The State Nature Conservation Agency was established and Management Plan was elaborated for management of the protected area, including wetlands, and was approved by the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus. The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council. Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period. Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority – the State Nature Conservation Agency and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Kozyansky (2196)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> The Ramsar site Kozyansky is included in the Landscape Reserve of the Republican value Kozyansky, which is managed by a separate State Nature Conservation Agency. Management plan for the Reserve considering values of wetlands was elaborated in 2016. The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population. Assessment of the ecosystem benefits/services was conducted during development of the Management plan for the protected area. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council. Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority - the State Nature Conservation Agency and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik (1090)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.



Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Ramsar site Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik is included in the same-named Wetland Reserve, which is managed by three State Nature Conservation Agencies established according to territorial and administrative principles. The Management Plan was elaborated for management of the Protected area, including wetlands, and was approved by the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus. The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.

Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council. Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authorities - the State Nature Conservation Agencies and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## Morochno (2139)

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes

- B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Ramsar site Morochno is included in the same-named Wetland Reserve. The Management Plan for the Reserve, including wetlands, was elaborated in 2016. Assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management is planned to be conducted in 2017 as a part of reporting on implementation of the Management plan.

METT assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management was conducted in 2015 within the framework of implementation of the UNDP-GEF project Peatlands-2. The result is: TOTAL SCORE 26, total score as a percentage of MPS - 26%.

Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was conducted in the frameworks of the scientific-technical-economic justification for the designation of the National Protected Area.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the Regional Executive Committee) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination

Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Olmany Mires Zakaznik (1091)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Ramsar site Olmany Mires Zakaznik is included in the same-named Landscape Reserve of Republican Importance, which is managed by a separate State Nature Conservation Agency. The Management Plan was elaborated for management of the Protected area, including wetlands, and was approved by the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council.

METT assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management was conducted in 2016 within the framework of preparation of the UNDP-GEF project. The result is: TOTAL SCORE 43.

Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was conducted in the frameworks of the scientific-technical-economic justification for the designation of the National Protected Area.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the State Nature Conservation Agency) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## Osveiski (1217)

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Ramsar site Osveiski is included in the same-named Landscape Reserve of Republican importance; for its management the separate State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Management Plan was elaborated for management of the Protected area, including wetlands, and was approved by the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.

Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was conducted in the frameworks of the scientific-technical-economic justification for the designation of the National Protected Area.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the State Nature Conservation Agency) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## Podvelikiy Moh (2267)

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Management Plan for the Ramsar site Podvelikiy Moh has not been elaborated; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the Regional Executive Committee) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Polesye Valley of River Bug (2252)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar

## Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

## Any additional comments/information about the site

> Part of Ramsar site Polesye Valley of River Bug is included in the Landscape Reserve of Republican importance "Pribuzhskoe Polesie", for which management the State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Management Plan was elaborated for the Landscape Reserve, including wetlands, and was approved by the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council. Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetlands which are the part of the Landscape Reserve have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the State Nature Conservation Agency) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## Pripyatsky National Park (2197)

### 5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

### 11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

### 11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

### 11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

### 16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder

involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> The Ramsar site Prip'yatsky National Park is included in the same-named National Park, for which management the State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Scientific-technical Council was established for coordination of scientific and production activities of the National Park Prip'yatsky. The Council includes the main specialists of the Reserve, as well as representatives of Ministries involved and scientific-research institutes of the Academy of Sciences.

The Management Plan was elaborated for the National Park, including wetlands. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the National Park as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the State Nature Conservation Agency) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Prostyr (1611)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan



11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> The Ramsar site Prostyr is included in the same-named Republican Reserve, managed by the State Nature Conservation Agency. Management Plan for the Ramsar site Prostyr has not been elaborated yet; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the State Nature Conservation Agency) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Servech (2250)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Ramsar site Servech is included in the same-named Hydrological Reserve. The Management Plan was elaborated in 2016 for management of the Protected area, including wetlands. METT assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management was conducted in 2016: TOTAL SCORE 24. Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was conducted in the frameworks of the development of the Management plan for the Protected Area.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the Regional Executive Committee) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Sporovsky Biological Reserve (1007)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> The Ramsar site Sporovsky Biological Reserve is included in the same-named Reserve of Republican Importance, for which management the State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Management Plan was elaborated for the Reserve, including wetlands. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council. METT assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management was conducted in 2016: TOTAL SCORE 53. Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the State Nature Conservation Agency) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Stary Zhaden (2140)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially

D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

C=Partially

Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

C=Partially

Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Management Plan for the Ramsar site Stary Zhaden has not been elaborated; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.

Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was conducted in the frameworks of the scientific-technical-economic justification for the designation of the National Protected Area.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the Regional Executive Committee) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Svislochsko-Berezinskiy (2268)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

- C=Partially
- D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Management Plan for the Ramsar site Svislochsko-Berezinskiy has not been elaborated; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the Regional Executive Committee) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Vigonoshchanskoe (2141)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially

D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

C=Partially

Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

C=Partially

Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Ramsar site Vigonoshchanskoe is included in the same-named Landscape Reserve of Republican importance, for which management the State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Management Plan was elaborated for the Protected area, including wetlands. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the State Nature Conservation Agency) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## Vileity (2251)

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

A=Yes

B=No

D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Management Plan for the Ramsar site Vileity has not been elaborated; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the Regional Executive Committee) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## **Vydritsa (2195)**

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Ramsar site Vydritsa is included in the same-named Landscape Reserve of Republican importance, for which management the State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Management Plan was elaborated for the Protected area, including wetlands. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.

Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the State Nature Conservation Agency) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## Yelnia (1218)

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.



Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- C=Partially
- Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes
- B=No
- D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> Ramsar site Yelnia is included in the same-named Landscape Reserve of Republican importance, for which management the State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Management Plan was elaborated for the Protected area, including wetlands. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council.

METT assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management was conducted in 2016: TOTAL SCORE 65. Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was conducted in the frameworks of development of the management plan for the protected area.

Socio-economic values and cultural of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the State Nature Conservation Agency) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.

## Zvanets (1219)

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

Please select only one option

- A=Yes

- B=No  
 D=Planned

5.9 If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 D=Planned

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 C=Partially  
 Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

*Please select only one option*

- A=Yes  
 B=No  
 D=Planned

Any additional comments/information about the site

> The Ramsar site Zvanets is included in the same-named Landscape Reserve of Republican Importance, for which management the State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Management Plan was elaborated for the Reserve, including wetlands. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council. METT assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management was conducted in 2016: TOTAL SCORE 49. Socio-economic and cultural values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area as its Section, considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area.

The procedure of approval of the Management Plan for the national protected area includes public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.

Information sharing between the Ramsar Administrative Authority (here - the State Nature Conservation Agency) and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through administrative and communication mechanisms as well as through Interdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, web site of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus [www.minpriroda.gov.by](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by), web site on Clearing-house mechanism <http://biodiv.by/>, etc.