

# 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)

> Bulgaria

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Submission\\_letter.pdf](#)

## Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

### Name of Administrative Authority

> Ministry of Environment and Water

### Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

> Neno Dimov, Minister of Environment and Water

### Mailing address

> 22 Maria Luiza Blvd., Sofia, 1000, Bulgaria

### Telephone/Fax

> Tel: +359 2 988 2577 / Fax: +359 2 986 2533

### Email

> cabinet.minister@moew.government.bg

## Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

### Name and title

> Aylin Hasan, State expert, National Nature Protection Service Directorate

### Mailing address

> 22 Maria Luiza blvd., Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

### Telephone/Fax

> Tel: +359 2 940 6103

### Email

> ahasan@moew.government.bg

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

### Name and title

> Dr Nevena Trifonova Ivanova

### Name of organisation

> Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research - Bulgarian Academy of Science

### Mailing address

> 2 Gagarin Street, Sofia, 1113, Bulgaria

### Telephone/Fax

> +359 2 873 61 37

### Email

> nevena759344@gmail.com

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

Name and title

> Aylin Hasan, State expert, National Nature Protection Service Directorate

Name of organisation

> Ministry of Environment and Water

Mailing address

> 22 Maria Luiza blvd., Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

Telephone/Fax

> Tel: +359 2 940 6103

Email

> ahasan@moew.government.bg

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

Name and title

> Ina Agafonova

Name of organisation

> Via Pontica Foundation

Mailing address

> 3 Han Krum str., Burgas 8000, Bulgaria

Telephone/Fax

> Tel: +359 56 825 254

Email

> ina@viapontica.org

## **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)
  - › Assessment and valuation of the wetlands ecosystem services in Bulgaria
- 2)
  - › Launch of the project WetMainAreas - Improving the conservation effectiveness of wetlands.; The overall objective of WetMainAreas project is protection, conservation and development of wetlands as shared asset of the BalkanMed territory. Coverage of the WetMainAreas project goes along wetlands all over the territory of Bulgaria, Greece, Albania and FYROM. Expected results of the project are:
    - Mapping and assessment of wetland ecosystems connectivity and analysis of their integration to designated areas and networks (NATURA 2000, Ramsar sites), across the whole BalkanMed translational territory (Bulgaria, Greece, FYROM, Albania and Cyprus).
    - Update of the picture of wetlands (maps and in-situ measurements) over the BalkanMed countries (Bulgaria, Greece, FYROM, Albania and Cyprus).
    - Demonstration of joined-up wetland conservation techniques at 4 pilot sites.
    - Demonstration of joined-up wetland eco-tourism opportunities at 4 pilot sites.
    - Improvement of wetland conservation policies in the BalkanMed territory as well as the capacity of competent authorities to enforce national legislation, cooperate for effective implementation of EU Directives and promote wetland natural and cultural heritage and eco-tourism.
    - Increase the visibility of BalkaMed wetlands' role in ecological connectivity and transnational ecosystem integration of designated areas (national parks, NATURA 2000 sites, Ramsar sites)
- 3)
  - › A new Management Plan (MP) for Ramsar site Srebarna for the period 2016 - 2026 was developed and approved by the Minister of Environment and Water with an Ordinance № RD-565/13.10.2016, published in State Gazette No. 87/2016. The new MP has been prepared according to the recommendations of the Secretariat laid in the final report of the Ramsar Advisory Mission № 47, Srebarna, Bulgaria, 2001. The MP includes measures to improve the ecological conditions of the wetland listed in the Montreux Record
- 4)
  - › No
- 5)
  - › No

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

- 1)
  - › Insufficient economical incentives to wetlands conservation and wise use
- 2)
  - › Insufficient administrative capacity for implementation of the Convention
- 3)
  - › The funding for nature protection, management and restoration activities is based on project-wise approach with diverse funding and varying approaches. Horizontal measures are not sufficiently interceded.
- 4)
  - › It has to be stated that the wetlands with higher categories of protection according to the Protected areas act (reserve, managed reserve, national and nature park) and with accepted management plan have significantly higher level of protection and management than the rest.
- 5)
  - › The total territory of the wetlands that are subject of legislative protection has been increased significantly. The implementation of the ecological network Natura 2000 that encompasses without exceptions all significant wetlands in Bulgaria has contributed to this the most. In general, the state of the wetlands has not improved due to the diverse anthropogenic

pressure and/or transition towards unsustainable use practices.

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

- 1)
  - > Priorities of the Republic of Bulgaria concerning wetlands are formulated in accordance to the goals of the Ramsar Convention and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016–2024, the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and as well as on the basis of the relevant national strategic documents:  
Priority 1 - Limitation of the unfavorable anthropogenic factors that affect wetlands ecosystems. The general tools for the protection of wetlands are the various legislative protection status (according to the Protected Areas Act and the Biodiversity Act) and related regimes and management measures.
- 2)
  - > Priority 2 - Maintenance of the good ecological status of the wetlands described in the National Action Plan for Conservation of Wetlands of High Significance in Bulgaria 2013 - 2022 .
- 3)
  - > Priority 3 - Restoration of wetlands with deteriorated status as a result of various anthropogenic impacts. Restoration and maintenance of the water regime which is often related to designing and construction of hydro technical facilities.
- 4)
  - > Priority 4 - Wise use of the country's wetlands in relation with the long-term protection of their ecosystem services.
- 5)
  - > Priority 5 -To perform mapping and assessment of ecosystem services of wetlands within the boundaries of the Natura 2000 network and to integrate the results into a national information system.

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

> No

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

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)?

> The current National Action Plan for Conservation of Wetlands of High Significance in Bulgaria 2013 - 2022 takes into account a number of strategic documents that formulate the environmental and sustainable development policy on European and International level such as:

- European strategy "Europe 2020" - an EU fundamental strategic document for intelligent, sustainable and affiliate growth;
- EU Biodiversity strategy 2020 - an ambitious strategy setting out 6 targets and 20 actions to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020;
- Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020, including Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- Strategic plan of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;
- National Environmental Strategy for the period 2009 - 2018 ;

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)?

> Institutional (cross sectoral) coordination in relation to the implementation of the Protected Areas Act, Biological Diversity Act, management of Natura 2000 sites and implementation of the requirements of the Ramsar Convention and Strategic Plan of the Convention.

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

> No

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 Environment and Water (MOEW)

Executive Environment Agency

Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water (RIEW) under MOEW

River Basin Directorates (RBD) under MOEW

Persina Nature Park Directorate

Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research - Bulgarian Academy of Science (IBER-BAS)

Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB)

Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (BBF)

Via Pontica Foundation

Green Balkans NGO

Balkani Wildlife Society NGO

WWF Bulgaria



## 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 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
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 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
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 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
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 type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

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

## 1.1 Additional information

>

### 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

> Bulgaria applies the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and the Council to achieve and maintain the good ecological status of water in the country. The WFD was transposed into the Bulgarian Water Law as well as the guidelines that have been developed for its implementation. Bulgaria recognizes the importance of the management of rivers and their water resources at the basin scale for the maintenance of the ecological character of wetlands, and that many wetlands provide vital goods and services in the management and provision of water supplies. The Resolution VIII.2 is about the Report of the World Commission on Dams (WCD) and its relevance to the Ramsar Convention. There are no relevant information in the Water Management Directorate.

## 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

> The Action r3.4.ix. includes the development of projects and other activities that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands, make such good practice examples available to others through the information exchange mechanisms of the Ramsar/CBD River Basin.

In the period 2003-2009 Danube River Basin Directorate has conducted a project for the recovery of wetlands and reduction of pollutants in the Danube river basin. The project was financed by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and World Bank Group (WBG) for the Danube wetlands in Bulgarian part of the Danube river - Persina and Calimock. The main aim of this project was to help Bulgaria to fulfil the national and international commitments for reduction of nutrient loads and to preserve the biological diversity of the Danube river and the Black Sea by restoring the wetlands with improved management and sustainable use of water resources. In the four River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) there are concrete measures and relevant actions concerning the wetlands, such as watering of wetlands, creation and rehabilitation of wetlands, raising of water level with the aim of expanding of existing or rehabilitated wetlands etc.

There are also concrete measures in the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP) in relation with wetlands, e.g. creation of manageable polders and small buffering basins in river bank flooded strips.

## 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

>

## 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

> Bulgaria applies the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and the Council to achieve and maintain the good ecological status of water in the country. The WFD was transposed into the Bulgarian Water Law as well as the guidelines that have been developed for its implementation.

Bulgaria recognizes the importance of the management of rivers and their water resources at the basin scale for the maintenance of the ecological character of wetlands, and that many wetlands provide vital goods and services in the management and provision of water supplies.

## 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

> The Action r3.4.ix. includes the development of projects and other activities that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands, make such good practice examples available to others through the information exchange mechanisms of the Ramsar/CBD River Basin.

In the period 2003-2009 Basin Directorate Danube Region have conducted a project for the recovery of wetlands and reduction of pollutants in the Danube region. The project is financed by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and World Bank Group (WBG) for the Danube wetlands- Persina and Calimock. The main aim of this project is to help Bulgaria to fulfil the country's national and international commitments for reduction of nutrient loads and to preserve the biological diversity of the Danube river and the Black Sea by restoring the wetlands with improved management and sustainable use of water resources.

Several other projects were carried out in the Danube and East Aegean River Basin District, such as:

- Restoration of Vesselina River;
- Restoration of Rusenski Lom River near Ivanovo;
- Restoration, protection and sustainable development of protected area "Zlato pole";
- Restoration and conservation of riparian forests - habitats of European conservation importance on the territory of Dimitrovgrad municipality;
- The Bulgarian Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project;
- Restore riparian floodplain habitats maintained in reserve "Dolna topchia" and run off on his sleeve "Malka Tundzha".

## 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)

> 180 municipalities

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

## 2.6 Additional Information

> The G mark means more than 180 municipalities which are linked to the sewage system. Some /not all/ settlements in every municipality are linked to the sewage system.

## 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)

>

F=Less than (percentage)

>

G=More than (percentage)

> more than 84%

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

## 2.7 Additional Information

> The G mark means more than 84% of sewerage coverage in the country.

## 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)

>

X=Unknown

Y=Not Relevant

## 2.8 Additional Information

>

## 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

> There is no information in Water management directorate on the precise number of constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology.

## 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

>

## 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)

> more than 115

- X=Unknown
- Y=Not Relevant

## 2.11 Additional Information

> The mark G means more than 115 centralised wastewater treatment plants at national level.

## 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

>

## 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

>

### 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

>

### 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.

>

## 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

> Introduction of and support for economic mechanisms for wetland conservation:

The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 as well as other international key strategic documents underline that the biodiversity loss leads to tremendous economic losses for the public and especially for the economic subjects of various economic sectors that depend directly on the ecosystem services.

First, inventorying and valuation of ecosystem services are needed for all of the more substantial wetlands. According to the Activity 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy the ecosystem services values have to be integrated in the national systems for economic analysis and reporting by 2020.

Introduction of compensatory mechanisms for sustainable management of the Natura 2000 sites (all wetlands are Natura 2000 sites), agro-ecological and aqua-ecological measures in the Operational programs for the period 2014–2020 was planned in consideration with the concrete needs for maintenance measures for the wetlands as well as for their water catchment areas (for example maintenance of reedbeds and limiting the biogenic inflow).

Private investments can be supported by introduction of mechanisms for ecosystem services payments (such as direct payments "business to business" and subsidies "state to business").

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 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

3.2 Additional information

> a) Ramsar sites

The main economic activity in the Atanasovsko Lake Ramsar site (1,404.3 ha) is salt production. Black Sea Salinas JSC has been producing salt in the traditional manner and thus protecting and preserving the Ramsar site Atanasovsko Lake for 110 years. For the needs of salt extraction, Atanasovsko Lake was divided into basins with different sizes through the use of earth dykes and wooden barriers, and channels. The dykes and barriers create the unique structure of the lagoon with a rich variety of micro-habitats and higher biological productivity of the ecosystem, presenting the priority habitat Coastal Lagoons (1150\*). They create suitable conditions for nesting of various birds, while the sea water with different concentrations – necessary for the production of salt is inhabited by specific species that serve as food for the birds.

The restoration of 15 km wooden barriers and earth dykes by BS Salinas for the last four years has a direct positive impact on bird species and increased with 7.7 ha suitable areas for nesting, resting and roosting of different bird species. Notably, the significant increase of the number of the nesting Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) in Atanasovsko Lake was observed - 469 pairs (2016) or 345 pairs more than in 2011.

Restoration of the 22,930 m Bypass channel and the Protection dyke by BS Salinas to August 2018 will result in improved flood protection and decreased pollution from surface water inflow at the whole water body of Atanasovsko Lake with a total area of 7,208 ha. 17 km from the top and slope of the Protective dyke and the Bypass channel were cleaned from the undesired vegetation until April 2017, which increased the clearance and conductivity of the channel. The access to the channel was improved with 17 km earth road, which reduced the response time in crisis and emergency situations. At this stage, the Bypass channel can be characterized as a water body with moderately good ecological status, which creates suitable habitats for feeding, roosting and breeding of associated with fresh water species.

Since 2016 a private company Via Pontica Foundation has restored the fishfarming in the Ramsar Site 1230 – Vaya Lake. Following the national regulations for this protected site, only extensive fishbreeding is practiced. A visitors’ centre for birdwatching is in development by a local NGO in the same RAMSAR site (1230-Vaya), broadened with ecological education, environmental protection and raise of awareness by events organization and informational activities in the city of Burgas.

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

> The BS Salinas company has an experience in two LIFE projects with a partnership with the biggest NGOs in Bulgaria (Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation and Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds). It is an example of a sustainable business that supports biodiversity of the lake.

BS Salinas, as a partner in the Salt of Life project (LIFE11NAT/BG/000362) developed its own “100% natural salt product”, an upmarket alternative to table salt for the Bulgarian market.

Salt extraction is done through solar evaporation of concentrated seawater. Although the annual yield depends on weather and annual rainfalls and can vary from 0 to 50 000 tonnes, the salt production is considered industrial activity. Study for options the inclusion of sea salt production in the Agro-environment Program was made by the same project but these are in consultation with Agriculture Ministry and it is not likely to be approved since salt mining is not declared agricultural activity.

Lush, a UK based cosmetics company that focuses on ethical and sustainable practices bought first 24t salt from Atanasovsko Lake Ramsar site following their policy for sustainable ingredient sourcing in September

2017. In 2016 they supported construction of the biggest artificial island for Dalmatian pelicans in Bulgaria with area 144m<sup>2</sup>.

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

>

#### 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

> The East and South European Network for Invasive Alien Species (ESENIAS) was established in 2011 to facilitate solving invasive alien species (IAS) issues in the Balkan countries. Currently 12 member countries and three invited countries have been involved in the ESENIAS activities: exchange and sharing of IAS information, capacity building, research, policy development and harmonisation. In 2014 the Danube Region Invasive Alien Species Network (DIAS) was established within the frames of Priority Area 06 of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region, International Association of Danube Research (IAD), and ESENIAS. Countries from the Upper, Middle and Lower Danube River basin, as well as adjacent Black Sea region participate in the network. Since 2015 a joint project: East and South European Network for Invasive Alien Species - A tool to support the management of alien species in Bulgaria (ESENIAS-TOOLS) has been implemented. The project is funded by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area 2009-2014, and aims at networking and development of IAS tools (harmonisation of definitions and standards, listing and prioritisation of alien species, data collection, database development, education) within the frame of ESENIAS to support the management of alien species in Bulgaria and in the overall region. The project provides essential data about alien species distribution, population status, etc., in Bulgaria and neighboring countries. The main outputs of the project are: (1) joint standardised and harmonised methodology for data collection, analysis, dissemination and further outreach; (2) database of alien species in the region, IAS experts and responsible institutions, IAS projects and publications; (3) analysis of IAS legislation and management practices. (4) early warning tool including species alerts were developed in order to increase awareness of experts, public administration and managers and to facilitate the IAS early detection and rapid response.

In the frame of the Information system for biodiversity monitoring, Executive Environmental Agency developed a module for collecting data for invasive alien species. The module contains templates for each species for gathering data from the field and questionnaire for risk assessment.

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

> Bulgaria implements the requirements of the EU Regulation No 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) entered into force on 1 January 2015. It provides for a set of measures to be taken across the EU in relation to invasive alien species included on a list of Invasive Alien Species of Union concern. Specific national legislation on IAS is forthcoming to be developed.



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

*Please select only one option*

E=Exact number (species)

>

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

>

#### 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

>

## 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

> The scope of the National Action Plan for Conservation of Wetlands of High Significance in Bulgaria 2013 - 2022 includes 11 wetlands as priority wetlands which at present are part of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Ramsar Convention (Ramsar sites). The descriptive part of the National Plan describes in details 28 additional wetlands that cover one or more of the Ramsar Convention criteria or have significant potential for protection and restoration, but are not designated as Ramsar sites.

#### 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

>

#### 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)

> 3 sites

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)

> 3 sites

- 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)

> 5 sites

- F=Less than (sites)

>

- G=More than (sites)

>

- X=Unknown

- Y=Not Relevant

5.3 - 5.5 Additional information

> 5.3 Ramsar sites "Belene Islands Complex", "Srebarna" and "Ibisha Island" - have an effective, implemented management plans;

5.4 For Ramsar sites "Atanasovsko Lake", "Poda" and "Ropotamo Complex" - Management plans will be adopted soon;

5.5 Ramsar sites - "Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex", "Durankulak Lake", "Lake Shabla", "Pomorie Lake" and "Vaya Lake" - effective management planning currently being implemented (outside of formal management plans);

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

> Ramsar sites with updated and adopted management plans and those in the process of updating:

Srebarna

Belene Islands Complex

Ibisha Island - partly

Poda

Atanasovsko Lake

Ropotamo Complex - partly

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 sites

- 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

> 1226 Belene Islands Complex

292 Atanasovsko Lake

64 Srebarna - In June 2017 Srebarna Biosphere Reserve joined to the requirements of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program. In this regard to fulfil the commitment under the program which requires the establishment of advisory board, the advisory board with representatives of all stakeholders will be 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)

>

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

> Ramsar sites with updated and adopted management plans and those in the process of updating:

64 Srebarna

1226 Belene Islands Complex

1227 Ibisha Island - partly

1228 Poda

292 Atanasovsko Lake

65 Ropotamo Complex - partly

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

> Ramsar sites with updated and adopted management plans and those in the process of updating:

64 Srebarna

1226 Belene Islands Complex

1227 Ibisha Island - partly

1228 Poda

292 Atanasovsko Lake

65 Ropotamo Complex - partly

In the process of development of management plans assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar site management is carried out using the criteria and procedure similar to those provided by Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (Resolution XII.15).

## 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

> • One of the mechanisms is the EIA and EA - All projects and investment proposals affecting wetlands are proceeded in line with the Bulgarian legislation and are subject of Environmental Assessment (EA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures.

• Another mechanism is the Appropriate Assessment (AA) according to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive of the EU, to be provided on investment proposals, plans and programmes, which are planned to be held in potential Natura 2000 sites, in order to avoid any negative effects.

All significant wetlands in Bulgaria are Natura 2000 sites. As far as Natura 2000 sites are concerned, the Biological Diversity Act envisages a particular assessment according to Article 6 of the Habitat Directive of the EU, to be provided on investment proposals, plans and programmes, which are planned to be held in potential Natura 2000 sites, in order to avoid any negative effects on the particular habitats and habitats of species, for which preservation the respective site was proposed as Natura 2000 site.

According to the Article 31, para (1) of the Biological Diversity Act any plans, programmes, projects and building-development proposals that are not directly related or necessary for the management of the Natura 2000 sites and that, either individually or in interaction with other plans, programmes, projects or building-development proposals, are likely to have a significant negative impact on the Natura 2000 sites, shall be assessed as to the compatibility thereof with the protection purposes of the relevant site.

There are special regulation under the Biological Diversity Act for the AA procedure - Regulation on the Conditions and Procedures for Assessment of the Compatibility of Plans, Programs, Projects and Investment Proposals with the Scope and Objectives of Conservation of the Protected sites (Natura 2000 sites), 2007 (Appropriate Assessment Regulation).

• Management of the wetlands that are protected areas. According to the Bulgarian Protected Areas Act The Ministry of Environment and Water and its regional bodies – Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water carry out the management and control in the wetlands that are protected areas (Ramsar sites), the assigning of the activities on the maintenance and restoration, the assigning of tourist activities, the guarding and the control in the forests, the lands and the water areas in the protected areas.

• National monitoring systems related to wetland status:

- Monitoring of the environmental status of water in compliance with the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EEC. The monitoring is planned and controlled by the River Basin Management Directorates and includes a range of biological, physical and chemical, and hydromorphological quality elements approved by the Minister of Environment and Water. Some wetlands belong in or are covered by surface water monitoring points (for status, chemical and ecological monitoring). On-site monitoring is carried out by specialized authorities - the Regional laboratories of Executive Environment Agency. It is recommended that the next updating of the monitoring network (during the post 2015 river basin management planning work) in or of the most significant wetlands in Bulgaria, that waterbody status monitoring points be established/included in the cases where the waterbodies include or comprise wetlands.

- National Biodiversity Monitoring System: The system has been developed during the recent decade and although not fully functional (although forthcoming), is expected to provide the main information required for informed biodiversity related decision making. The main list of monitoring subjects includes: 252 invertebrate species; 51 fish species; 21 amphibian and reptilian species; 310 bird species; 18 mammal species (excluding bats); 13 bat species; 16 mushroom species; 13 moss species; 194 vascular plant species (5 ferns, 1 clubmoss, 1 gymnospermous and 187 angiospermous plant species); Habitats - 65 types of the Habitats Directive and 16 other types according to the Palearctic classification without corresponding codes in the Habitats Directive. The monitoring points for all sites have been identified. There are observation methodologies for most sites and data gathering forms as well.

- Hydrological and meteorological monitoring carried out by the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology. Specific parameters and monitoring data may be crucial for wetland management (mainly with regard to the hydrological regime).

- National monitoring schemes carried out by governmental and non-governmental organizations for specific reasons. One example of such monitoring is the mid-winter counting of waterfowl carried out by the BSPB in the entire country on an annual basis and covering all wetlands of importance for the birds.

- Determination of the favourable nature conservation status (NCS) of species and habitats. At present, this process is carried out in Bulgaria for Natura 2000 management purposes. The initial NCS determination will allow determination of the management objectives of individual Natura 2000 sites (including wetlands) and, using follow-on monitoring, following of the trends in the condition of key species/habitats.

- Specialized monitoring schemes – monitoring schemes elaborated in the management plans for indicators at the local level.

## 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

>

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

> A new Management Plan (MP) for Srebarna for the period 2016 - 2026 was developed and approved by the Minister of Environment and Water with an Ordinance № RD-565/13.10.2016, published in State Gazette No. 87/2016. The new MP has been prepared according to the recommendations of the Secretariat laid in the final report of the Ramsar Advisory Mission № 47, Srebarna, Bulgaria, 2001. The MP includes measures to improve the ecological conditions of the wetland listed 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

> Michev, T., M. Stoyneva (eds). 2007. Inventory of Bulgarian Wetlands and their Biodiversity. Publ. House Elsi-M, Sofia, 364 pp. + CD supplement.

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

>

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

>

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

>

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> O=No Change <input 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)

> Updated management plans

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 (km2)

>

F=Less than (km2)

>

G=More than (km2)

>

- 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.

>

**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

> With a Protocol № 16 of the meeting of the National Biodiversity Council held on 08.10.2013 at the Ministry of Environment and Water, the developed National Action Plan for the Conservation of Wetlands of High Significance in Bulgaria for the period 2013 - 2022 was adopted as the basis for planning and implementation of activities for conservation and sustainable management of the most important wetlands in Bulgaria, both at national level and at the level of wetland. Also the plan is approved as a strategic document and the basis for the implementation of national commitments under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in the period 2013 - 2022.

### 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

>

### 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

> All protected areas (Natura 2000 sites), where maintenance or improvement of the water status (wetlands) is an important factor in their protection, are identified in the River Basin Management Plans (RBMP). These are available in the RBMP as detailed lists.

River Basin Management Plans are elaborated by the Director of the relevant River Basin Directorate for each river basin district in the country: Danube River Basin District, Black Sea River Basin District, East Aegean River Basin District and West Aegean River Basin District. River Basin Management Plans are elaborated pursuant to Article 155(1), (para 2) of the Water Act (WA) and Article 13 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD, Directive 2000/60/EC) which has been transposed into the Bulgarian Water Act.

RBMPs are strategic documents governing water management in RBDs; they are developed in parallel with Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) covering the same period of time. This is done to ensure consistency between the two strategic documents as elements of integrated river basin management.

Pursuant to Article 14 WFD and Article 159(1) WA, RBMPs have to be reviewed and updated every six years after their initial publication.

RBMPs comprise the following sections:

- Section 1. Description of RBD characteristics: information on the identified surface and groundwater bodies, types of surface waters, reference conditions, heavily modified and artificial water bodies (WB)
- Section 2. Brief overview of significant pressures and impact from human activity on the status of surface and ground waters: an overview of the pressure on waters caused by human activity from point and diffuse sources of pollution, water abstraction, impoundments, alterations in the physical characteristics of rivers etc.
- Section 3. Updates to the Register of Protected Areas: a Register of Protected Areas (PAs) which includes:
  - PAs designated for the abstraction of water intended for human consumption (Directive 75/440/EC)
  - areas designated for the protection of economically significant aquatic species
  - PAs bodies of water designated as recreational waters, including areas designated as bathing waters (Directive 76/160/EC)
  - PAs - vulnerable zones (Directive 91/676/EC)
  - PAs - sensitive areas (Directive 91/271/EC) PAs - areas designated for the protection of habitats or species where the maintenance or improvement of the status of water is an important factor in their protection (including relevant Natura 2000 sites designated under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 79/409/EEC
- Section 4. Monitoring and assessment of the status of surface water, groundwaters, and water protection areas: information on the status of surface and ground waters and monitoring programmes
- Section 5. List of environmental objectives: objectives and exceptions concerning surface and ground water bodies and objectives for water protection areas pursuant to Art.156a(1) of WA
- Section 6. Brief overview of the economic analysis of water use: assessment of the economic and social importance of water use, assessment of developments compared to the situation described in the first RBMPs and the level of cost recovery of water services.
- Section 7. Brief overview of Programmes of Measures to achieve environmental objectives: measures envisaged in order to achieve RBMPs objectives, including funds planned and responsible authority.

- Section 8. Update of the register of all other plans and programmes within the scope of RBDs for individual basins, sectors, problems or water types: national, regional, district and municipal plans and programmes, including management plans for protected areas and water protection areas and regional master plans on water supply and collecting systems prepared by water operators
- Section 9. List of measures for public consultation, the results achieved in their implementation and relevant amendments to the plan (public consultation): information on the consultation process with the public and stakeholders at the various stages of RBMP development, including information on the consultation methods used and results thereof.
- Section 10. Transboundary coordination in updating RBMPs (2016 – 2021): information on transboundary consultations and exchange of information to develop RBMPs.
- Section 11. Competent authorities in water management: This section indicates the competent authorities in water management.
- Section 12. Contact persons and procedures for obtaining documentation and information on Programmes of Measures and monitoring data
- Section 13. Strategic environmental assessment of the draft RBMP.

Measures in the Programme of Measures and Driving forces:

The Programmes of Measures in RBMPs include measures to control and reduce the impact on water and ecosystems from various human activities which are related to the driving forces that cause them: urbanization, industry, agriculture, forestry, climate change, energy – hydropower plants, Energy - other than hydropower plants, fisheries and aquaculture, flood protection, tourism and recreation, transport, and unknown driving force (other). There are cases where a given measure is planned to deal with more than one driving force. Each measure provides for concrete action to achieve the relevant environmental objectives in response to the specific pressure. The measures and concrete actions in the Programmes of Measures in the four RBMPs comply with the catalogue of measures prepared at national level:

1. Urban areas: construction, reconstruction or modernization of collecting systems and urban wastewater treatment plants, construction, recultivation and closure of municipal waste landfills, efficiency in water use;
2. Industry, incl. mining and old pollution sources: construction or modernization of waste water treatment plants for industrial waste water, reduction and prevention of pollution by persistent organic pollutants/priority substances, remediation of contaminated sites, efficiency in water use;
3. Agriculture: limiting the pollution with nitrates and pesticides from agricultural sources, raising farmers' awareness, reducing water losses in irrigation, improving the flow regime;
4. Forestry: improving forest management in the watershed of surface water bodies intended for drinking water supply (DWS), implementation of projects related to increasing forest cover and restoring forestry potential and similar actions for drinking water protection;
5. Energy: improving the hydro-morphological conditions of water bodies, improving the longitudinal continuity of rivers, protection and improving of protection areas etc., improving the flow regime;
6. Management: research to identify the pollution of surface and groundwater, improve monitoring, adopt/update legislation in the field of water protection, use and management etc.;
7. Transport: improve the longitudinal continuity of rivers, actions for prevention or control of pollution from transport activities, control on the collection and transport of ship waste, elaboration and application of instructions and measures to prevent the pollution of water from cargo loading and unloading activities etc.
8. Climate Change: measures for adaptation to climate change; elaboration and implementation of a Drought Management Plan; exploring the options for the construction of facilities to capture and use biogas in waste water treatment plants etc.
9. Water protection areas in the Natura 2000 network: improve water management in water protection areas by setting the requirements for the quantity and quality of water in the process of elaboration of management plans for protected areas and territories dependent on surface or groundwater etc.
10. Flood protection: improve longitudinal continuity, actions for natural water retention, scientific research, improving the knowledge base to reduce uncertainty, improve the hydromorphological conditions of water bodies etc.
11. Tourism and recreational activities: improve the longitudinal continuity of rivers, scientific research, improve the knowledge base to reduce uncertainty;
12. Fisheries and aquaculture: reduce the nutrient pollution from agriculture, improve longitudinal continuity, research, improve the knowledge base to reduce uncertainty, actions for prevention or control the adverse impacts of invasive alien species or imported diseases, improve management;

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

- > River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) are elaborated and updated in stages, each stage involves consultations with the public and stakeholders:
- a timetable and work programme for the production of the plan, including a statement of the consultation



measures to be taken

- interim overview of significant water management issues
- draft RBMP and Programme of Measures

A key point in this consultation is the information in Section 5 on determining the objectives of environmental protection and the terms for achieving them, and the information in Section 7 on the designated measures to achieve these objectives. In more detail the activities within the public consultation and the results are given in Section 9 of the RBMPs.

Reports on the assessment of compliance with Natura 2000 sites were prepared for all RBMPs, together with environmental assessment reports which were also published for consultation.

### 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

> Third National Action Plan on Climate Change for the period 2013-2020

([http://www5.moew.government.bg/?wpfb\\_dl=17756](http://www5.moew.government.bg/?wpfb_dl=17756)) includes specific measures in two sectors:

1. LAND USE, LAND USE CHANGE AND FORESTRY SECTOR - According to the Good Practice Guidance the sector covers six major categories of land: "Forests", "Arable land", "Pastures and meadows", "Wetlands", "Settlements" and "Other land". Each of these categories is divided into subcategories: "Land remaining in the same category of land use" and "Lands converted to other land uses". The determination of removals or emissions of greenhouse gases is based on carbon stocks in soil and plant biomass on the area covered by the relevant category of land use. Within this sector the following specific measure is included in the plan: "RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WETLANDS. PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF WETLANDS IN FOREST AREAS, PEATLANDS, MARSHLANDS" with indicator of implementation - 200 ha restored / preserved wetlands and inventory and assessment of 1300 ha peatlands in forest areas. The expected effect (total reduction in tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> eq. by 2020) of the implementation of the measure is calculated to 4 681 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>.

2. AGRICULTURE SECTOR - Within the sector the following specific measure is included in the plan: "IMPROVEMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF PADDY FIELDS AND TECHNOLOGIES FOR PRODUCTION OF RICE" with indicator of implementation - Number of supported rice producers. The expected effect (total reduction in tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> eq. by 2020) of the implementation of the measure is calculated to 10 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>.

### 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

> The main part of contribution for financing this type of projects for the programming period 2014-2020 is from the EU funds. These are:

- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD): the Fund has a key role in financing activities in the field of biodiversity. Due to the nature of the contribution from the EAFRD (direct payments), this instrument support biodiversity-friendly practices for land management by complementing the one-time investment from the ERDF or CF.

- European Fund for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (EFMAF): financial support from this Fund for the purpose of biodiversity conservation is related to the promotion of a sustainable fishery sector and efficient use of resources by „reducing the impact of fishing on the marine environment" and by „protection and recovery of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and the services they provide, and promotion of the "aquaculture" sector for the implementation of practices with a high level of environmental protection".

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input 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

>

## 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

>

## 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

> Management plans:

The Protected Areas Act (PAA) requires the elaboration of management plans for protected areas. Besides the Act there is also a special regulation which determines a comprehensive procedure related to the elaboration of management plans (MP) for protected areas. Management plans are obligatory for the categories of National parks, Nature parks, Reserves and Maintained reserves. For the other two categories - Protected areas and Natural landmarks management plans could be also developed if there is an interested institution, for example NGO or Municipality, but only after the written approval by the Ministry of Environment and Water.

Management plans are developed on the basis of comprehensive socio-economic information, information about cultural and historical heritage, data about the infrastructure within and around the protected areas. Management plans provide zoning of the territories and define specific regimes for use and utilization of the separate zones according to their conservation value.

They are agreements between the interested parties, namely the protected area's managers and local population. They are tools for development of opportunities for sustainable development and use of natural resources.

Management plans are developed for a period of 10 years. For the National parks on every 4 years from the MP entry into force a special public hearing is held which aims to assess the management plan implementation.

MPs are being developed with priority for those sites which are internationally recognized such as Ramsar sites, Biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites, etc.

### 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

>

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

>

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

> Please see additional information in point 10.1

## 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

> The project "Wetland Ecosystem Services Mapping and Assessment in Bulgaria (WEMA)" was implemented in Bulgaria during the period September 2015 - April 2017. The main goal of the project was to provide ecological and biodiversity scientific basis for assessment of ecosystem services of wetlands in Bulgaria, which are not directly associated with freshwater bodies, do not belong to the coastal marine areas and are situated outside of the Natura 2000 network. These include three types of wetlands (further referred to as target wetlands). The project objectives include: (1) Identification and mapping of target wetlands on the territory of the entire country. (2) Accumulation of data on abiotic heterogeneity and biotic diversity in the target wetlands. (3) Assessment of ecological status and ecosystem services (detected or potential) of the targeted wetlands. As a result of the implementation of the project all wetlands on the territory of Bulgaria, outside of the Natura 2000 and protected areas were mapped. Ecosystems conditions and quantity of the services that they provide were assessed. The main results of the project are:

- 285 "Inland Wetlands" ecosystems were identified and mapped through GIS and field studies;
- The condition of identified ecosystems is assessed by direct measurement or analysis of available data on plant and animal diversity, soils, water, fires, dumping sites and invasive species;
- Assessed provisioning, regulating/maintenance and cultural ecosystem services;

• Individual maps of sub-types of ecosystems, their condition and the ecosystem services they provided are prepared;

• The information gathered and the assessments made are entered in a database.

The project "Wetland Ecosystem Services Mapping and Assessment in Bulgaria (WEMA)" was funded under the Programme BG03 "Biodiversity and Ecosystems", financed by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (FM of EEA 2009-2014) and implemented by the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Science.

The project "Freshwater Ecosystem Services Mapping and Assessment in Bulgaria" (FEMA), funded under the Programme BG03 "Biodiversity and ecosystems", financed by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (FM of EEA 2009-2014) was also implemented in Bulgaria. The main goal of the project was the assessment of the freshwater ecosystems in Bulgaria by following the national methodology for assessment and by developing maps corresponding to the technical requirements of the National Information System for Biodiversity in freshwater basins, which are located outside of the Natura 2000 network and/or other protected areas. The overall goal of the project was to improve the integration of biodiversity into sectoral policies, in particular in the management of water resources, including an assessment of ecosystem goods/benefits and services that freshwater ecosystems provide to people and society.

As a result of the implementation of the project all fresh water and marine ecosystems on the territory of Bulgaria, outside of the Natura 2000 and protected areas were mapped. Ecosystems conditions and quantity of the ecosystem services that they provide were assessed. The project beneficiary was the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Science.

The next stage of the projects - Wetland and Freshwater Ecosystem Services Mapping and Assessment in Natura 2000 sites and protected areas is forthcoming to be implemented, after the implementation of which the results will be incorporated in one common national database.

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

>

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:

The Protected Areas Act (PAA) requires the elaboration of management plans for protected areas. Besides the Act there is also a special regulation which determines a comprehensive procedure related to the elaboration of management plans (MP) for protected areas. Management plans are obligatory for the categories of National parks, Nature parks, Reserves and Maintained reserves. For the other two categories – protected areas and natural landmarks management plans could be also developed if there is an interested institution, for example NGO or Municipality, but only after the written approval by the MOEW.

Management plans are developed on the basis of comprehensive socio-economic information, information about cultural and historical heritage, data about the infrastructure within and around the protected areas. Management plans provide zoning of the territories and define specific regimes for use and utilization of the separate zones according to their conservation value.

They are agreements between the interested parties, namely the protected area's managers and local population. They are tools for development of opportunities for sustainable development and use of natural resources.

Management plans are developed for a period of 10 years. For the National parks on every 4 years from the MP entry into force a special public hearing is held which aims to assess the management plan implementation.

MPs are being developed with priority for those sites which are internationally recognized such as Ramsar sites, Biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites, etc.

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

> Please see additional information in point 11.3

### 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 National Action Plan for Conservation of Wetlands of High Significance in Bulgaria for the period 2013 - 2022 includes horizontal measures for protection and wise use of wetlands.

Point 7.3. from the Plan includes a list of specific priority measures / projects for protection and improvement the ecological status of wetlands included in the Plan.

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

> The project Urgent Measures to Restore and Secure Long-term Preservation of the Atanasovsko Lake Coastal Lagoon/ LIFE11 NAT/BG/000362 with acronym Salt of Life is financed by LIFE+ Programme of the EU.

The project referent number is: LIFE11 NAT/BG/000362

Project duration: 1.07.2012 - 31-08-2018

Coordinating beneficiary: Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation

Associated partners: Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds and Chernomorski solnici JSC

Total value: 2 013 027 €

The main aim of the project is to establish a functional, efficient and sustainable infrastructure for water management and the control of the coastal lagoon in Atanasovsko Lake. This will provide long-term improvements to habitat conditions and enable adaptation to the effects of climate change.

The project also aims to:

- Reduce the impact of direct and indirect threats on Atanasovsko Lake lagoon and its priority bird species by securing sustainable habitat management, including improving existing and creating new breeding sites for priority bird species;
- Monitor and evaluate the effects of the proposed habitat restoration measures on the lagoon, other significant habitats, and Annex I bird species, and to feed this information into future site management plans;
- Improve the visitor experience at the site and to disseminate the project results to a wide European audience of site managers, ecologists and the general public;
- Enhance public understanding of the ecological, economic and social values of the coastal lagoons and raise support for the conservation of priority coastal habitats and bird species.

Expected results: Specific outcomes will include the establishment of functional, efficient and sustainable infrastructure for water management and the control of the coastal lagoon in Atanasovsko, as well the

mitigation of the impact of direct and indirect threats on Atanasovsko Lake lagoon and its priority bird species by securing sustainable habitat management, including improvements to existing and the creation of new breeding sites for priority bird species. The project will also increase public understanding and support for the ecological, economic and social values of the coastal lagoons.

In the long term, the habitat improvements and other beneficial changes brought about through the project will make an important contribution to efforts to increase the populations of a number of Annex 1 species including collared pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*), Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), avocet (*Recurvirostra avocetta*), black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), little tern (*Sterna albifrons*), common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and the gull-billed tern, sandwich tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*).

<http://www.saltoflife.biodiversity.bg/en/>

## 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

> The Environmental Protection Act (EPA) is the framework act in Bulgaria which determines the State policy in the field of environment. It specifies the place and the role of the state authorities at central and local levels, in relation to:

- protection of environment;
- preservation of biological diversity;
- protection and utilization of the components of the environment;
- control and management of factors, which are harmful for the environment;
- monitoring of the status of the environment and of the causes of pollution; preventing and restraint of pollution;
- establishment and functioning of National system for monitoring of environment; collection and access to information about environment;
- economic organisation of activities related to environment protection;
- rights and obligations of the state, municipalities, legal and physical entities in regard to the environment protection.

EPA determines the procedures for accomplishing of :

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for investment proposals for construction;
- Environmental Assessment (EA) for plans and programmes in the implementation of which considerable impact on the environment is possible. This is a kind of a Sectoral Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It is provided for plans and programmes in the field of forestry, agriculture, fishery, transport, energetics, tourism, territory development, management of waters, management of wastes, etc. The EIA and the EA procedures aimed at integration of the national environmental protection policy into sectoral policies: transport, energy, construction, agriculture, industry, etc.

The other main goal of the EIA and EA is to ensure adequate participation of the public in decision making in relation to protection and management of nature resources.

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

> Environmental Assessment (EA) procedure is provided for plans and programmes in the field of forestry, agriculture, fishery, transport, energetics, tourism, territory development, management of waters, management of wastes, etc. in the implementation of which considerable impact on the environment is possible.

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

> For all investment proposals (for construction of new transport infrastructure - roads, highways, railways, mining projects, building projects, urban development, projects in the field of energy sector, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries) during the EIA procedure the competent authorities require extensive research and analysis, in cases where of direct or indirect effects on wetlands are exist. Special attention is given to the protection of the hydrological regime and the risk of collision with the moving species. In the course of the EIA procedures in order to minimize the negative impact specific mitigation measures are envisaged to be implemented.

### 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

- > • Ramsar Regional Initiative on Black Sea and Azov Sea Coastal Wetlands - BlackSeaWet. The Initiative is supported by Contracting Parties in the region - Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine have supported the initiative.  
• Ramsar Regional Initiative on Mediterranean wetlands - MedWet. The Initiative is supported from Governments of countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, The FYR of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Palestinian Authority.

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)

>

#### 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 type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned
c) Catchment/basin level	<input 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

> Management plans for wetlands include part with CEPA actions and programme on local/site level.

### 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)

> 8

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)

> 2

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

> 1. Belene Islands Complex - Persina Nature Park Visitor Centre

2. Durankulak Lake - Nature Conservation centre

3. Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex - Dragoman marsh Wetland Conservation Centre

4. Site Poda - Poda Ecological Centre

5. Pomorie Lake - Pomorie Lake Visitor Centre

6. Complex Ropotamo - Ropotamo Reserve Visitor Centre

7. Atanasovsko Lake - Atanasovsko Lake Visitor Centre

8. Srebarna - The Nature Museum in Srebarna village

### 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  
 > All most important wetlands in Bulgaria are part of the National Natura 2000 Network. Pursuant to the Ordinance on the conditions and procedures for the development and approval of management plans for protected zones (Natura 2000 sites), prior to final approval by the Minister of Environment and Water Management plans are subject to public consultation with the affected community and all stakeholders. Also, according to the current Ordinance on the development of management plans for protected areas, Draft management plans for national parks and nature reserves are subject to mandatory public hearing. In the process of developing of management plans for reserves, natural monuments and protected areas public hearings are being held only:

1. if it is explicitly pointed out in the assignment;
  2. in the case of a positive decision of the Ministry of Environment and Water in connection with a request of municipalities, NGOs or owners of land, forests and water areas within the protected area - subject of the plan.
- Also out of these specific cases, according to the Ordinance, assigners or contractors can organize public hearings, seminars, informal meetings and other forms of public participation for public authorities interested in the development of the management plans.

### 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

>

### 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

>

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input 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

> Focal points of the other MEA in the field of biodiversity and all relevant stakeholders always participate in working groups on wetlands issues.

## 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

> Traditionally, each year the World Wetlands Day in Bulgaria is celebrated with campaigns over the country, organized by the regional structures of the Ministry of Environment and Water and directed to kindergartens, schools and universities, and including open lessons, exhibitions, presentations, activities of different environmental school clubs, competition, birdwatching tours.

## 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

> CEPA activities related wetlands under different projects have been undertaken by:

Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (BBF) under project:

- LIFE11 NAT/BG/000362 Salt of life - Project objectives:

To establish a functional, efficient and sustainable infrastructure for water management and control of the coastal lagoon in Atanasovsko lake. This will provide long-term improvements to habitat conditions and enable adaptation to the effects of climate change including changing rainfall patterns and rises in sea-level.

To reduce the impact of direct and indirect threats on Atanasovsko Lake lagoon and its priority bird species by securing sustainable habitat management including improvements to existing and creation of new breeding sites for priority bird species.

To monitor and evaluate the effects of the proposed habitat restoration measures on the lagoon, other significant habitats, and Annex 1 bird species during the project and to feed this information into future site management plans.

To improve the visitor experience at the site and to disseminate the project results to a wide European audience of site managers, ecologists and the general public.

To enhance public understanding of the ecological, economic and social values of the coastal lagoons and raise support for the conservation of priority coastal habitats and bird species.

### 3. Green Balkans NGO

Regularly provides CEPA activities for Red-breasted geese at Durankulak and Shabla Lakes; at Pomorie Lake the campaign is on-going at the visitor centre.

### 4. Balkani Wildlife Society NGO

The necessity for out-of-school environmental practice bred the idea for establishing the Wetlands conservation educational centre "Dragoman marsh". Due to the lack of awareness of these nature territories and the low support for their wise and sustainable use, today they are still being destroyed. Education activities are the long-term solution for the lack of responsible attitude of society to the environment.

Participation of young people and locals in conservation of these valuable territories is one of the main goals of Balkani Wildlife Society.

#### 5. WWF Bulgaria

The Life + project Joint actions to raise awareness on overexploitation of Danube sturgeons in Romania and Bulgaria aims to tackle overfishing, the main direct threat to the survival of Danube sturgeons. Project target groups are fishing communities, law enforcement agencies, decision makers, sturgeon breeders and caviar processors and traders in Romania and Bulgaria.

#### 6. The Nature Conservation Centre (NCC) Poda was created by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds / BirdLife Bulgaria (BSPB)

Main activities of the BSPB Poda Centre include:

- preservation of Poda Protected Site and the protected areas around Burgas;
- improving the breeding, feeding and staging conditions of the birds in the area;
- monitoring of the birds of Poda and the rest of the Burgas Wetlands Complex;
- preventing and halting unfavourable for birds human activities;
- providing information and facilitating the visitors in observing birds and the natural values of Burgas region;
- development of the ecotourism as a mean for sustainable Nature conservation;
- educational activities aiming in increase the conservation culture of the youth;
- training and courses in ecology, biodiversity conservation and ecotourism with university students, including internship;
- attracting people from Burgas to participate in the conservation activities of the Nature Conservation Centre Poda;
- participation in local, national and international projects of BSPB;
- organising and hosting workshops, lectures, presentations and other in the hall of the centre

### 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

>

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

>

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

>

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

>

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

>

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

>

### **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

> Focal points of the other MEA in the field of biodiversity and all relevant stakeholders always participate in working groups on wetlands issues.

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

> With Ordinance № РД-444/23.06.2015 г. of the Minister of Environment and Water a working group between competent authorities has been established on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Environment and Water. All focal points of the conventions related to biodiversity are members of the working group.

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

>

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

> Project: Improving the conservation effectiveness of wetlands

Project acronym: WetMainAreas

Subsidy Contract: BMP1/21/2342/2017

Partnership:

- LP (PP1) University of Forestry - Bulgaria
- PP2 Goulandris Natural History Museum/ Greek Biotope-Wetland Centre - Greece
- PP3 Faculty of Economics, South-West University "Neofit Rilski" - Bulgaria
- PP4 National Observatory of Athens - Greece
- PP5 National Environmental Agency - Albania
- PP6 Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts, Investigation centre for environment and materials, FYROM
- PP7 Thessaly Region - Greece
- PP8 Municipality of Gotse Delchev - Bulgaria

Observer partners:

- PP9 Ministry of Environment and Energy, Department of Biodiversity and protected areas - Greece
- PP10 State Environmental Inspectorate - FYROM

The overall objective of WetMainAreas project is protection, conservation and development of wetlands as shared asset of the BalkanMed territory.

The project seeks:

- a) To identify and map the wetlands all over the territory of Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, Albania and FYROM and assess their ecological connectivity.
- b) To demonstrate pilot assessment, management and conservation techniques for wetland ecosystems which are ecologically and functionally connected with Natura 2000 network, Emerald network, national protected areas, Ramsar sites.
- c) Review existing policies and action plans regarding BalkanMed wetland ecosystems as well as to identify links with other sectorial and territorial plans such as agriculture, fishery, water management and to jointly identify basic set of measures for regional planning.
- d) Involve stakeholders and key actors from selected regions at each one of the participating countries as an instrument to engage stakeholders and users in the wetland conservation domain and maximize uptake of project findings as well as project findings sustainability.

Expected results:

- Mapping and assessment of wetland ecosystems connectivity and analysis of their integration to designated areas and networks (NATURA 2000, Ramsar sites), across the whole BalkanMed transnational territory (Bulgaria, Greece, FYROM, Albania and Cyprus).
- Update of the picture of wetlands (maps and in-situ measurements) over the BalkanMed countries (Bulgaria, Greece, FYROM, Albania and Cyprus).
- Demonstration of joined-up wetland conservation techniques at 4 pilot sites.
- Demonstration of joined-up wetland eco-tourism opportunities at 4 pilot sites.
- Improvement of wetland conservation policies in the BalkanMed territory as well as the capacity of competent authorities to enforce national legislation, cooperate for effective implementation of EU Directives and promote wetland natural and cultural heritage and eco-tourism.
- Increase the visibility of BalkanMed wetlands' role in ecological connectivity and transnational ecosystem integration of designated areas (national parks, NATURA 2000 sites, Ramsar sites).

#### Scope and location:

- The targeted area of WetMainAreas Project is 3 568 225 ha.
- Coverage of the WetMainAreas project goes along wetlands all over the territory of Bulgaria, Greece, Albania and FYROM.
- Cyprus, although is not represented in the partnership, will be part of the final distribution map under WP3.
- The WetMainAreas includes 4 pilot demonstration sites which are going to present good management practice and better approach for conservation of wetlands in the context of the EU directives.
- Proposed pilot demonstration sites include - 3 transboundary and 1 inland territory:
  - Mesta/Nestos River basin
  - Aaos/Vjosa River basin
  - Vardar/Axios River basin
  - Thessaly Region

#### 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

> The most of the Ramsar sites have their own web page on which there are information about the wetlands and their biodiversity.

Under the WETLANET project was published the leaflet `Protecting the world`s wetlands` and multimedia product `WETLANET protects the world`s wetlands` (March 2012). The platform contains information about the importance of the wetlands, their protection and sustainable management. The special attention is paid on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the information about Bulgarian wetlands included in it.

Public awareness material for the BlackSeaWet Initiative:

To raising the awareness both on BlackSeaWet members as an initiative and on the importance and the beauty of the Black Sea coastal wetlands and their biological diversity.

The booklet is titled "DISCOVER BLACK SEA COAST, 38 BLACKSEAWETlands to visit". The publication was produced in 1500 copies in English language and includes three parts: Part with information on Ramsar Convention, second part with information on BlackSeaWet Initiative and last part with profiles of each of Black Sea coastal countries - Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine.

The publication was funded by the Enterprise for Management of Environmental Protection Activities (EMEPA) at the Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria.

The publication was distributed to all Regional structures under the Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria - River Basin Directorates and Regional Inspectorates and also to all Black Sea municipalities and are available also in all Black Sea coastal wetlands visitors centers in Bulgaria.

Part of them was sent to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority in Tulchea, Romania because it is a coordination unit of the BlackSeaWet Initiative (the hard copies are also available there);

#### 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

>

#### 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

> Ongoing activity under project: Improving the conservation effectiveness of wetlands WetMainAreas - point 18.4

#### 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

>

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

> Bulgaria is a contracting party in the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA).

### 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

>

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

>

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)

> 0

- 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)

> 0

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

>

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

> The previous Ramsar National Reports have been used for monitoring of implementation of the Convention in process of implementation of priorities and measures included in the National Plan for the Conservation of the Most Important Wetlands in Bulgaria for the period 2013 - 2022.



## 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

>

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

>

##### 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

>

##### Target 1: Wetland benefits - Additional Information

>

## 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

>

### Target 2: Water Use - Planned activity

>

### 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

>

### Target 2: Water Use - Additional Information

>

### 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

>

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

>

#### 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

>

#### Target 3: Public and private sectors - Additional Information

>

#### **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

>

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

>

##### 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

>

##### Target 4: Invasive alien species - Additional Information

>

## 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

>

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

>

#### 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

>

#### Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Additional Information

>

## 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

>

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

>

### 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

>

### Target 7: Sites at risk - Additional Information

>

## 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

>

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

>

#### 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

>

#### Target 8: National wetland inventories - Additional Information

>

## 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

> Restoration and/or improvement of water regime of the Bulgarian wetlands

### Target 9: Wise Use - Planned activity

> Integration of status and measures for wetlands into River Basin Management Plans for the post 2015 period

### 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 Basin Management Plans are elaborated pursuant to the Water Framework Directive (WFD, Directive 2000/60/EC) which has

been transposed into the Bulgarian Water Act.

RBMPs are strategic documents governing water management in RB Directorates. They are developed in parallel with Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) covering the same period of time. This is done to ensure consistency between the two strategic documents as elements of integrated river basin management.

The first RBMPs covering the period 2010-2015 were elaborated and implemented. The second set of RBMPs were elaborated for the period 2016-2021 and have been adopted for the implementation since 29.12.2016.

The Programmes of Measures in RBMPs include measures to control and reduce the impact on water and ecosystems from various human activities which are related to the driving forces that cause them: urbanization, industry, agriculture, forestry, climate change, energy - hydropower plants, Energy - other than hydropower plants, fisheries and aquaculture, flood protection, tourism and recreation, transport, and unknown driving force (other). There are cases where a given measure is planned to deal with more than one driving force. Each measure provides for concrete action to achieve the relevant environmental objectives in response to the specific pressure.

### Target 9: Wise Use - Additional Information

>



## 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

>

### Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Planned activity

>

### 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

>

### Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Additional Information

>

## 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

> Assessment and valuation of the wetlands ecosystem services in Bulgaria

### Target 11: Wetland functions - Planned activity

> To perform inventory and valuation of ecosystem services for all significant wetlands in Bulgaria

### 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. The project "Wetland Ecosystem Services Mapping and Assessment in Bulgaria (WEMA)" was implemented in Bulgaria. The main goal of the project was to provide ecological and biodiversity scientific basis for assessment of ecosystem services of wetlands in Bulgaria, which are not directly associated with freshwater bodies, do not belong to the coastal marine areas and are situated outside of the Natura 2000 network. These include three types of wetlands (further referred to as target wetlands). The project objectives include: (1) Identification and mapping of target wetlands on the territory of the entire country. (2) Accumulation of data on abiotic heterogeneity and biotic diversity in the target wetlands. (3) Assessment of ecological status and ecosystem services (detected or potential) of the targeted wetlands. As a result of the implementation of the project all wetlands on the territory of Bulgaria, outside of the Natura 2000 and protected areas were mapped. Ecosystems conditions and quantity of the services that they provide were assessed. The project "Wetland Ecosystem Services Mapping and Assessment in Bulgaria (WEMA)" was funded under the Programme BG03 "Biodiversity and Ecosystems", financed by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (FM of EEA 2009-2014).

2. The project "Freshwater Ecosystem Services Mapping and Assessment in Bulgaria" (FEMA), funded under the Programme BG03 "Biodiversity and ecosystems", financed by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (FM of EEA 2009-2014) with contract № D-33-87/27.08.2015 was also implemented in Bulgaria. The main goal of the project was the assessment of the freshwater ecosystems in Bulgaria by following the national methodology for assessment and by developing maps corresponding to the technical requirements of the National Information System for Biodiversity in freshwater basins, which are located outside of the Natura 2000 network and/or other protected areas. The overall goal of the project was to improve the integration of biodiversity into sectoral policies, in particular in the management of water resources, including an assessment of ecosystem goods/benefits and services that freshwater ecosystems provide to people and society.

As a result of the implementation of the project all fresh water and marine ecosystems on the territory of Bulgaria, outside of the Natura 2000 and protected areas were mapped. Ecosystems conditions and quantity of the ecosystem services that they provide were assessed.

3. The next stage of the projects aims to perform mapping and assessment of ecosystem services of wetlands within the boundaries of the Natura 2000 network and to integrate the results into a national information system.

### Target 11: Wetland functions - Additional Information

>

## 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

>

### Target 12: Restoration - Planned activity

>

### 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

>

### Target 12: Restoration - Additional Information

>

### 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

>

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

>

#### 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

>

#### Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Additional Information

>

## 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

>

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

>

#### 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

>

#### Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Additional Information

>

## 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

>

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

>

### 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

>

### Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Additional Information

>

## 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

> Provision of an adequate administrative capacity and financial resource for wetland conservation, maintenance and restoration measures

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

> Integration of maintaining and restoration measures and economic mechanisms for wise use of wetlands in the operational programs for 2014 – 2020 period and in the other financial instruments

### 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

> Identified measures and sources of funding:

The territories of all most important wetlands in Bulgaria are included in the Natura 2000 Network. Due to this the priorities for EU provided funding resources since 2014 are provided by the National Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 (NPAF). This is the first time in which such an approach is included in the 2014 -2020 EU financial period. NPAF is a strategic planning document that defines the funding needs and the conservation and development priorities for the wetlands under Natura 2000 network at national and regional level, facilitating their integration in the programs financed by EU financial instruments. Funding included in the different operational programs and other EU financial instruments for wetlands as Natura 2000 sites are in accordance with the measures of the NPAF and their already identified sources of funding.

### Target 17: Financial and other resources - Additional Information

>

## 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

>

### Target 18: International cooperation - Planned activity

>

### 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

>

### Target 18: International cooperation - Additional Information

>



## 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

>

### Target 19: Capacity Building - Planned activity

>

### 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

>

### Target 19: Capacity Building - Additional Information

>

## **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.

### **Bulgaria**

#### **Atanasovo Lake (292)**

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

>

## **Belene Islands Complex (1226)**

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

>

### **Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex (1970)**

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

>

### **Durankulak Lake (293)**

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

>

## **Ibisha Island (1227)**

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

>

## **Lake Shabla (801)**

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

>

## **Poda (1228)**

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

>

## **Pomorie Wetland Complex (1229)**

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



>

## Ropotamo Complex (65)

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

>

## Srėbarna (64)

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

>

## **Vaya Lake (1230)**

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

>