Ramsar National Report to COP13

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)
› THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

China_Letter.docx

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority
› State Forestry Administration, the People's Republic of China (P.R. China)

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title
› Mr. ZHANG Jianlong, Minister

Mailing address
› State Forestry Administration, No. 18 Hepingli East Street, Beijing, 100714 P. R. China

Telephone/Fax
› +86-10-84239335/+86-10-84239013

Email
› ramsarfang@qq.com

Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title
› Mr. WANG Zhigao, Director General

Mailing address
› The Convention on Wetlands Management Office of the State Forestry Administration, No. 18 Hepingli East Street, Beijing, 100714 P. R. China

Telephone/Fax
› +86-10-84239335/+86-10-84239013

Email
› ramsarfang@qq.com

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

Name and title
› Mr. Bao Daming, Chief Engineer

Name of organisation
› The Convention on Wetlands Management Office of the State Forestry Administration

Mailing address
› No. 18 Hepingli East Street, Beijing, 100714 P. R. China

Telephone/Fax

› +86-10-84238576/+86-10-84239013

Email
› 710924588@qq.com ramsarfang@qq.com

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

Name and title
› Ms. Fang Yan, Division Chief

Name of organisation
› The Convention on Wetlands Management Office of the State Forestry Administration

Mailing address
› No. 18 Hepingli East Street, Beijing, 100714 P. R. China

Telephone/Fax
› +86-10-84239335/+86-10-84239013

Email
› ramsarfang@qq.com

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

Name and title
› ZHANG Yimo

Name of organisation
› WWF China

Mailing address
› 3B, Building 2, No. 22 Baiwanzhuang Street, Xicheng District, Beijing, 100037 P. R. China

Telephone/Fax
› +86-15601821022

Email
› ymzhang@wwfchina.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)
› Based on China’s strategic goals and objectives set for wetland conservation and management, China has developed the Thirteenth Five-year Implementation Plan for National Wetland Conservation in a scientifically sound and holistic way
Wetland conservation to China has been a national strategy, which provides that all wetlands should receive full protection. China has, therefore, planned to institute a system for wetland conservation, aiming to meet one challenging sub-goal for China’s eco-civilization blueprint that is to keep the acreage of wetlands by 2020 no less than 800 million mu, or ca. 53.3 million hectares.
The State Forestry Administration (SFA) identified a national strategic plan for wetland protection for the period of the 13th five year. This plan also outlined the priorities and key programs for wetland conservation, leading to the development of the Thirteenth Five-year Implementation Plan for National Wetland Conservation. The 13th five-year plan detailed a work plan to keep the total area of wetlands in China as much as 53.3 million hectares, so that they can maintain intactness, integrity, and strong rehabilitatioin of wetland ecosystems.
In response to the essence that wetland conservation relies on close cooperation and collaboration among multi-sectors, cross-sectoral coordination in wetland planning has been strengthened. In 2014 the Ministry of Agriculture, for example, took a leading role in formulaiton of the Integrated Plan for Addressing Critical Issues Relating to Agricultural Environment (2014-2018), which for the first time put forward actions aiming to conversion of farmland to wetlands.
In conjunction with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Land and Resources, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Forestry Administration and the State Administration of Grain, the National Development and Reform Commission in 2016 gazetted the Resilience Plan for Arable Land, Grassland, Rivers and Lakes (2016-2030). Wetland conservation and restoration were integral parts of the resilience plan.
In 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture issued the Thirteenth Five-year Plan for Agricultural Resources and Environmental Protection Programmes, which included multiple tasks concerning wetland conservation and management, such as improvement of environmental conditions for fishery resources, restoration of agricultual wetlands and better control, and prevention of invasive species in wetlands.
Special concern has been given to thematic conservation planning prepared for key watersheds with wetlands of (inter)national significance, focusing on addressing focal issues and challenges limited to each target catchment. In 2015, the Committee of Population, Resources and Environment of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) developed a special plan for protection of wetlands in the Yangtze River Economic Belt based on their comprehensive field survey of wetland conservation there.
It is hoped that wetlands will be classified as a sub-category of land cover/use in national land-use planning. China is revising its Law on Land Management, demanding an increase in the supply of ecologicla land, including wetlands. In additon, a latest revision on the Classification of Land Use (National Criteria) defined wetlands as a secondary category of land cover/use.
Such efforts altogether will be a remarkable milestone in recognition of wetlands as a type of land cover/use in national land-use planning, contributing to setting a solid foundation for making a systematic plan for wetland conservation and management and for valuing natural capital generated by wetlands.

2)
› A framework of long-term systems for wetland conservation is coming into existence with the establishment and on-going improvement of key elements, such as wetland legislation, sustainable funding, and land titles to wetlands.
In 2015 the Regulation on Wetland Conservation, prepared by the State Forestry Administration was submited to the State Council for review. This move kicked off the efforts for China to enact a national law on wetland conservation after 23 provinces and municipalities had introduced their own sub-national regulations or measures.
China started piloting registering of owerships of and rights to natural resources. To establish and consolidate a management system for wetland ownerships, the State Forestry Administration drafted the Pilot Plan for Wetland Tenure and Titling Registration and posted the Plan Concerning Piloting Wetland Titles and Tenure Rights in Gansu and Ningxia Provinces in 2016. The Ministry of Water Resoruces and the Ministry of Land and Resources jontly issued the Pilot Programme for Identifying Water Tenure Rights, beginning to pilot identification and registration of property rights to water.
On November 30th, 2016 the General Office of the State Council announced the Notice on Issuing Wetland Conservation and Restoration Scheme. The scheme gave special concern to establishing effective systems for wetland conservation and restoration and to strengthening conservation and wise use of coastal wetlands.

Given the fact that wetlands are vital to national eco-security, it further called for stricter use of wetlands and for more efforts to restore degraded wetlands, so as to maintain a minimum amount of acres of wetlands that is enough to enhance ecological functions of wetlands and to maintain biodiversity using wetlands as habitat. In 2014 the Management Measures for Forestry Subsidy Fund Appropriated by Central Government consisted of initiatives of policy, such as piloting wetland ecological compensation, demonstrating farmland conversion to wetlands, protecting and restoring wetlands and rewarding local government for their efforts to protect wetlands.
The central government of China has allocated special funds for wetland conservation and management, indicating the existence of a comprehensive policy framework for wetland subsidy. In its initial year of 2014, the established wetland subdidy system funded 268 projects, which received RMB 1.6 billion of subsidies, increased 5.4 times as against 2013.
During 2015 and 2016, Chinese central government appropriated RMB 3.234 billion to wetland conservation (excluding capital investments in infrastructure); of which, (a) RMB 3.2 billion used as special payments transferred to local governments from the central government. It was earmarked as funds for (i) wetland conservation and restoration and an addition to the subsidies for conservation and restoration efforts implemented in Ramsar sites, wetland nature reserves and national wetland parks in China; (ii) compensation for ecological benefits of wetlands and for damages caused by wildlife, including migratory birds recorded in ecologically significant wetlands along the bird migration routes across and in China; (iii) compensation for efforts to convert farmland to wetlands in and surrounding both the Ramsar wetlands and national wetland nature reserves; and (iv) rewarding county governments for their nationally recognized high performance in wetland protection. (b)RMB 34 million budgeted for wetland monitoring and management as matching funds for implementing international conventions and for membership dues as a contracting party to international conventions. This portion of the central government appropriations helped produce an updated inventory of China’s wetlands, improve capacities required for wetland monitoring and effective implementation of international conventions.
In line with wetland-related objectives identified in the Action Plan for Implementation of Key Reform Tasks for Promoting Ecological Progress, the State Forestry Administration drafted the Guidelines for Comprehensive Wetland Conservation (Version for Review). The guidelines identified specific measures for addressing key issues arising from advancing the following work: (a) to expand wetland acreage; (b) to promote wetland eco-compensation; (c) to convert farmland to wetlands; (d) to establish an effecitive management system for wetland conservation, and (e) to pilot identification of wetland properties.

3)
› China has seen an increase in acreage of wetlands under legal protection, a steady recovery of ecological functions of wetland with the launch of the National Scheme for Conversion of Agricultural Land into Wetlands (2016-2020).
In compliance with a redline-oriented philosophy for better protection of natural resources, eleven provinces have drawn up their own redlines for wetland protection. Establishment of national wetland parks, as a means of consolidating China’s protected areas, has become a principal contributor to development of an eco-civilization in China. During the period from 2014 to 2016, 500 sites of wetland were newly designated as national wetland parks and another three sites were recognized as Ramsar sites. By September 2017, the number of China’s wetlands of international importance stood at 49.
In China wetland conservation has been integrated into national land-use planning. It is regulated that: (a) freshwater and marine ecosystems be strictly protected and restored in full compliance with the types of land use zoning to which they are subject; (b) water conservation areas, headwaters regions of big rivers and wetlands be protected effectively; (c) any developments that may impose threats to water protection be strictly prohibited; (d) forests, grassland and wetland ecosystems be restored to enhance their functions as water supply; and (e) integrated measures aiming to re-establish natural ecological functions of wetlands be also taken, such as conducting major wetland restoration programmes and advancing conversion of farmland to wetlands. This move heralded a new era of strategic planning of China’s limited land resources for a huge population on the basis of striking a wise balance between conservation imperatives and development needs. Reasonable and appropriate guidance and instructions have been given to implementation of the Wetland Conservation Regulation to ensure that wetland utilization and conservation are in full compliance with applicable laws and regulations, so as to curb further loss and degradation of wetlands. In 2016 the General Office of the State Council issued the Workplan for Implementing Wetland Protection and Restoration Scheme. The State Forestry Administration (SFA) furthermore issued a special notice concerning strict prohibition on lake reclamation, putting forward a national plan for converting farmland to lakes according to field survey results on lake reclamation. SFA also conducted campaigns against lake reclamation in addition to carrying out state wetland subsidy programs to incentivize conversion of agricultural fields to wetlands.
In urban and rural land-use planning, it is recommended to increase the proportions of land for ecological purposes. This policy recommendation was written into the Regulation on Effective and Intensive Land Use, announced in May 2014 by the Ministry of Land and Resources.
In 2016, eight agencies, including the National Development and Reform Commission, jointly issued China's Resilience Plan for Arable Land, Grassland, Rivers and Lakes (2016-2030), calling for maintaining the total acreage of China’s wetlands, for protecting lakes and rivers, and for sound restoration of certain wetlands, so that no net wetland losses were to occur. As indicated in the plan, it is estimated that during the 13th five-

year plan period 1.5 million Mu of wetlands will be restored in Ramsar sites, wetland nature reserves and national wetland parks located in the Songnei Plain, the Sanjiang Plain, the Yangtze River Economic Belt, the Yellow River floodplain, and the Jing-jin-ji Region.
China's networks for wetland conservation have expanded from the Yangtze River watershed to the Yellow River catchment. During the period from 2014 to 2016, the central government cumulatively invested RMB 767 million in 142 wetland conservation programmes, placing the very first stepping stone to a preliminary success towards effective management of wetlands.
During the period from 2014 to 2015, 950,000 hectares of wetlands were designated as wetland protected areas, 50,000 hectares of degraded wetlands were restored, and 17,666 hectares of agricultural land were converted into wetlands.
During the period from 2010 to 2015, the central government allocated RMB 4.05 billion of subsidies for 965 wetland-related programmes all over China. These programmes were implemented at 534 sites of wetlands, including 38 Ramsar sites, 138 wetland nature reserves, and 358 national wetland parks. The implementation of the programmes enabled the project sites to have new monitoring and protection stations, patrolling roads, protection fences, and small-sized facilities and equipment for protection. This also enhanced and improved management capacities and working conditions of local management authorities, leading to better protection of 6.78 million hectares of wetlands and restoration of 80,000 hectares of degraded wetlands.

4)
› An initial use of good science and standardized procedures has enabled China's wetland protection to turn onto a path towards efficiency and effectiveness.
First of all, standardization of the management of national wetland parks has been highly appreciated. In 2014 the General Office of the State Forestry Administration posted the Notice Concerning Further Strengthening Management of National Wetland Parks, demanding relevant agencies and departments to advance their stewardship of wetlands through attaching importance to proper understanding of guiding principles for wetland management, to making planning for better control and prevention of wetland reclamation.
In the same year, China completed an assessment on the values and health of all its Ramsar sites. This was a leading effort in the world. This attempt then extended to other wetlands in China. Up to now, another 19 sites of wetlands in the Jing-jin-ji Region were done with an assessment on their ecological integrity, functions and values, laying a solid foundation for wetland protection in a synergic manner.
In 2016, the State Forestry Administration (SFA) revised the National Wetland Parks Management Measures (Tentative) and the Guiding Principles for Making a Master Plan for National Wetland Parks, demanding full compliance with available procedures for adjustment of a master plan for a national wetland park and for review and approval of engineering programmes that will or may impact wetlands. That year, this agency also started to manage wetlands based on an early warning system after having drafted the Technical Guidelines for Defining Red Lines for Wetland Ecosystems and issued the Scheme for Early Warning of Changes in the Features of Ramsar Sites (Tentative).
SFA also put forward the List of Dividing Powers and Spending Responsibilities between the Central and Local Governments for Forestry Issues (Limited to Wetland-related Responsibilities). The National Engineering Criteria for Wetland Protection Projects and the Technical Criteria for Valuation of Wetland Ecosystems are expected to be introduced soon.
Second, wetland management is evaluated not only by the quantity but the quality of wetlands. China will continue to develop a national system of wetland parks of national importance, aiming to build 20 park models to demonstrate best practices of wetland management and conservation. The management effectiveness of national wetland parks are subject to assessment and review of an independent expert panel.
Third, big data has helped make informed decisions for wetland planning and conservation. Based on the wealthy data collected from a second nationwide survey of wetland resources, a series of survey findings and results were compiled and published. Being a valuable source of data for China developing big plans and important policies for wetlands, the data were also used to develop China's Wetland Resources Information System as well as digitized and electronic maps of wetlands.
Fourth, data on key thematic issues have been specialized in line with the particularity of each and every thematic issue. A research on the carbon storage in peat bogs in Jilin and Liaoning provinces was completed. The research results were then compiled. The survey methodology, including survey methods and technical criteria adapted, was reviewed and will, as planned, be applied to all the peat bog areas in China for similar surveys. In terms of coastal wetlands, China did a survey of the changes in coastlines as a result of global climate change and analyzed the key driving factors for the changes. Relevant research approaches will be standardized and improved for future application, so as to gather reliable data for monitoring, protecting, and managing China's coastal wetlands.

5)
› Adaptive management, built upon data-based decision making and strong public support, has been a predominant modality of wetland stewardship.
China is one of the first countries that surveyed wetland resources countrywide. Sound and reliable survey data of wetlands have played an important role in gaining more support from China's political leaders and the public.
Since the announcement of the key findings on the second nationwide survey of wetland resources, Premier Li

Keqiang and Vice-Premier Wang Yang gave important instructions on wetland conservation. The top leaders' support and concern have helped pave a smoother way to institute a series of pivotal systems for wetland conservation, including establishing an effective legal framework for wetland management and increasing funding for wetland conservation.
The results from the second nationwide survey of wetlands were also used by eleven provinces/municipalities, including Tianjin, Tibet Autonomous Region, Guangdong, Sichuan, Hubei, Yunnan, Jiangxi, Guizhou, Shaanxi, Anhui and Gansu, as raw data for identification of the redlines for wetland conservation in each province. In this way, the land-use planning may be developed more sound and science-based, enabling full consideration of effective conservation and reasonable utilization of wetlands.
Promotions of the key findings of the survey have exposed the public to the status quo of wetland conservation and management in China in a comprehensive, informed and timely way. This attempt ended up with more concern of the public about wetland conservation. During two sessions of the 12th National People's Congress, more than 50 proposals of wetland conservation were submitted by deputies of the National People's Congress for discussion.
Non-governmental organizations have played a growing role in wetland conservation. China Wetland Conservation Association was legally approved by the Ministry of Civil Affairs to establish. A nationwide network for wetland conservation focusing on coordinated efforts at watershed- or regional scales was practically established.
A wide range of promotion campaigns and events, held on festival days, have delivered the latest information about wetlands to the public. Internet, print and social media have had a bigger overall audience. For instance, the website of "Wetland China" has, for now, more than 1,400 enrolled members. The website has recorded more than 100 million hits with about 5,000 new articles posted after its latest updating completed in 2015.

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

1)
› Severe threats far from being greatly mitigated
The threats facing China's wetlands have not showed a significant decline in threat severity. Ecological stresses, such as reclamation of wetlands for farmland and human settlements, industrial pollution, non-point source pollution, overharvesting, and overgrazing, have outpaced the environmental carrying capacities of wetland ecosystems. But for a considerable abatement in the above-mentioned threats, the exhausted wetland ecosystems would be ruined, prompting serious negative impacts on China's socioeconomic development in the long run.

2)
› Wetlands greatly undervalued
Wetland-related policies and measures have seen enormous challenges in being translated into on-the-ground conservation practices. The efforts to mainstream wetland conservation and management into national priorities would prove to be in vain if being made in a business-as-usual fashion.
Given the fact that the economic values of wetlands have not been fully recognized, when decisions are made on major programmes, either large-scale engineering projects that may impact rivers and lakes or land consolidation projects, government at different levels will show reluctance to give up conventional, low-efficiency models of economic development, which often give little consideration of ecological functions and values of wetlands.

3)
› Inadequate institutional systems
Key components of institutional systems for wetland conservation are lack. There are, for instance, neither a national law on wetland conservation and management nor a long-term system for trans-sectoral cooperation and coordination in China. Such institutional drawbacks would hamper the effectiveness of wetland conservation efforts.

4)
› Wetland conservation not based on good science
Current activities concerning wetland conservation and restoration, either of planning or of on-site practices, are decisions made according to poor, limited information. Most of them were not well concluded to get valuable lessons and high-quality data for similar efforts in the future.
With the introduction of wetland management measured by ecological health, functions and values of wetlands, it is urgent to protect wetlands on the basis of good science. First of firsts, top priorities should be given to establishment of a specified, unified and standardized registering system for wetland properties and of a set of methodology for wetland restoration, protection and monitoring.

5)
› Insufficient capacities for wetland conservation
The workforce practicing wetland conservation is being in short supply. Their professional education cannot

meet the minimum requirements for their positions, which leaves enough room to improve the overall level of their professionalism. There is also short of a long-term strategic plan or a similar system for wetland practitioners and managers to undertake their professional development.

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

1)
› To push for an overhaul of wetland-related systems and policies for effective implementation of conservation efforts
It is key to sort out a task list of the systems and policies that should be reformed, so as to address the most critical issues, such as enacting a national law on wetland conservation, managing wetlands in line with their identified land-use categories, stewarding wetlands of national significance, securing the sustainability of wetland funding, and maintaining the total area of wetlands. To do so, it is necessary to conduct relevant studies to draw up specific management measures and policies, which will, in appropriate time, be legalized to secure their long-term effectiveness and consistency.

2)
› To push solid implementation of the programmes and projects of wetland planning, protection and restoration through better cooperation and coordination among relevant sectors
To achieve the tasks (e.g. setting redlines for ecological conservation) identified for China's move towards an eco-civilization society, it is essential to fully complete the Wetland Conservation and Restoration Scheme and the Thirteenth Five-year Implementation Plan for National Wetland Conservation. This requires better review, approval, management and assessment of all kinds of wetland-related projects and programmes, which range from conversion of farmland into wetlands to wetland protection to wetland subsidies and to wetland eco-compensation. In this way, the effects of such efforts are expected to be synergized and leveraged as much as possible.

3)
› To establish a national wetland monitoring system to support informed decision-making for wetland conservation and management in a proactive way
First is to develop a national work plan for monitoring wetlands. Based on existing efforts of this kind focusing on China's Ramsar sites, identification of the wetlands of international importance will help build a long-term mechanism for monitoring and assessing the health and values of the wetlands of international significance.
Second is to extend the investigation on the storage of carbon in peat bogs to the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region from Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning, the three far northeast provinces of China. Once the review of the results and findings from the investigation conducted in Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces is done, the practice-tested technical portfolio will be replicated in other places of China. All data collected from the investigation of this kind will become part of the database of China's wetland resources, contributing to developing strategies pursuant to how peatlands will respond to global climate change.

4)
› To improve management effectiveness of wetland protected areas, so as to enhance the health, rehabilitation and sustainability of wetland ecosystems
In China wetland conservation efforts are valued not only by the quantity but by the quality of wetlands. The wetlands in China's protected areas are in a fair condition. To see that these wetlands are ecologically healthy, development of national wetland parks should be wisely directed with the enactment of a series of guidelines for creation and management of national wetland parks and for improvement of wetland-relevant management systems. By doing so, expected ecological services of these wetlands are envisioned to be fully revealed. The achievement of this goal will not happen without a capable management team.
Systematic provision of professional development trainings and recruiting talents of diverse disciplines may help build such a capable team. Better coordination and cooperation among sectors will definitely guarantee timely communication and knowledge sharing. If appropriate, trans-sectoral trainings on wetland conservation and management will help optimize resources in line with the uniqueness of stewarding wetland ecosystems. That is an integrated stewardship, characterized by trans-sectoral, trans-boundary and trans-ecosystem.

5)
› To advance promotion of wetlands for better implementation of wetland-related international conventions and for broader and deeper international cooperation
China Wetland Association will play a leading role in engaging and involving non-governmental organizations in wetland protection. Annual meetings of wetland networks, which cover the wetlands in the Yangtze River Basin, the Yellow River Basin and the Coastal Regions of China, will be held (bi-)annually to improve the level of wetland management at a landscape or watershed scale.
The program of Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention will be launched and a group of new Ramsar sites will, it is hoped that, be nominated based on better monitoring and management of current Ramsar sites in China. International cooperative projects, including those sponsored by GEF under the fifth and sixth funding cycles, will be hopefully implemented as planned.

Finally, it is estimated that a diverse of promotion campaigns and initiatives, including a ceremony to celebrate the 2017 World Wetlands Day will be delivered too.

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

› 1) To institute a financial mechanism, such as provision of seed funding to address critical issues of common concern, so as to leverage more funds matched by contracting parties;
2) To establish a mechanism for development of competencies for implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. It will function as an international, virtual knowledge-sharing platform. The platform, it is envisioned that, will further help a worldwide promotion of conservation methodology, engineering techniques, and approaches. It is hoped that the following techniques and approaches concerning, such as the classification of wetlands, wetland resource inventory and monitoring, control of pollution in wetlands, identification of ecological benchmarks for wetland health, and valuation of wetland benefits, will be shared via the platform.
3) To make it a routine to periodically issue a global report on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, giving a worldwide review of the environmental conditions of wetlands and an overview of their trend and perspective for future efforts. Importantly, the report should give recommendations by country or region. In doing so, it will make the national report on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands more valuable.

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)

› In line with their own development goals and action plans, international organization partners can be hoped to develop mid- or long-term cooperative plans with their contracting parties to channel more funding, knowledge and professionals for better implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

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)?

› To strengthen communication and coordination among all national implementation agencies responsible for not only the implementation of the RAMSAR treaty but other multi-lateral international agreements related to environmental protection, so as to keep them abreast of the latest happenings concerned. In this regard, one immediate consideration should be to establish a voluntary reporting system to share the latest development on the treaty implementation both domestic and abroad and improve the communication and coordination among the treaty members by integrating performance information and optimizing resource allocation.

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)?

› As a responsible contracting party, China deems its performance in implementing international conventions a persistent concern. The country is making great efforts to build a moderate prosperity society in which the economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological dimensions are expected to make a steady growth in tandem. The sub-objectives identified for the ecological dimension coincide with key activities prioritized for implementing the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Ecological conservation and sustainable use of wetlands are at the top of agendas of relevant government agencies.
To see that the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands goes well, China has given wetland conservation a record importance. The government agencies responsible for wetland conservation and management have had a broader and deeper cooperation and coordination, enabling multi-sectoral planning or trans-sectoral review feasible and predominant. Such a practice helped incorporate relevant issues covered in the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands into relevant national strategies and planning made by each and every sector.
First of all, China's National Committee for Implementing the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands reviews last year's work (including the latest progress of the on-going international cooperative projects) at its annual sessions. During each gathering, the committee also works out a work plan with key priorities for the next year to set a direction for action.
Each member agency of the Committee is in close, regular communication with one other. When making a wetland-related plan or policy, they work in tandem, either in cooperation, collaboration or assistance, to ensure it in coherent with any existing strategic plans or policies.
During the period from 2014 to 2017, in addition to the thirteenth five-year plans, as indicated in the additional information column for Goal 1.1 in Section 3, that were formulated by different ministries or administrations, the State Forestry Administration, as the designated Ramsar Administrative Authority, has also been engaged in designing some national, cross-sectoral projects or programmes, so that some actions

recommended by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands can be integrated into those national projects or programmes in a proactive way.
For instance, eight national government agencies, including the National Development and Reform Commission, announced in 2016 China's Resilience Plan for Arable Land, Grassland, Rivers and Lakes (2016-2030). The General Office of the State Council then posted the Wetland Conservation and Restoration Scheme, which for the first time had an entire chapter relating to wetland conservation. This scheme provides that local governments have the primary responsibility for wetland conservation and management in their administrative areas. It also encourages people from all circles of society to engage themselves in wetland protection and restoration.
According to the plan, relevant government agencies, which are responsible for stewarding forestry, land resources, environmental protection, water resources, agriculture and marine resources, should jointly push the work of wetland conservation and restoration in line with their legislative jurisdiction. The performance of each government agency in wetland conservation and restoration was a new indicator added to the performance evaluation system for civil service officers that is linked with a well-designed rewarding and punishment mechanism.
The State Forestry Administration (SFA), the designated Ramsar Administrative Authority, has also offered assistance to other government bodies to help them integrate conservation and sustainable use of wetlands into their strategic planning. SFA in 2014 participated in a survey, led by the Committee of Population, Resources and Environment of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), of the status quo of wetland conservation in the Yangtze River Economic Belt. SFA then attended coordination meetings and made technical contributions to the formulation of the Specific Plan for Wetland Conservation in the Yangtze River Economic Belt.
Last but not least, the designated focal point for Ramsar Convention Matters also made its presence at meetings of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and Asian Regional Meetings over the last four years and compiled the decisions approved at the meetings in Chinese. Another routine work for the office is to keep all data on China’s Ramsar sites up to date, so as to ensure that both the central and local governments can use the latest data to make any wetland-related policies.

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

› 1) To summarize and compile policies and initiatives that have proven valuable for more regions or countries to copy, which will help peer learning in implementing the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
2) To provide more technical assistance, particularly relating to (a) how to study the basic theories of wetlands and their implications for conservation and reasonable use of wetlands. Such efforts will help remove technical barriers to wetland restoration; (b) how to effectively control and prevent invasive species in wetlands; and (c) how to manage wetlands in line with their classifications of land use, register wetland properties and allocate water rights across a specific basin.

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

› The Ministry of Agriculture, the State Forestry Administration, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Land and Resources, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the State Tourism Administration, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Transportation, the State Oceanic Administration, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region

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	☑ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☐ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned ☐ X=Unknown ☐ Y=Not Relevant
b) Poverty eradication strategies	☐ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☑ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned ☐ X=Unknown ☐ Y=Not Relevant
c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans	☐ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☑ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned ☐ X=Unknown ☐ Y=Not Relevant
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	☐ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☑ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned ☐ X=Unknown ☐ Y=Not Relevant
e) Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan	☐ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☑ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned ☐ X=Unknown ☐ Y=Not Relevant
f) National forest programmes	☑ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☐ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned ☐ X=Unknown ☐ Y=Not Relevant
g) National policies or measures on agriculture	☑ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☐ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned ☐ X=Unknown ☐ Y=Not Relevant
h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	☑ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☐ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned ☐ X=Unknown ☐ Y=Not Relevant
i) National policies on energy and mining	☐ A=Yes ☑ B=No ☐ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned ☐ X=Unknown ☐ Y=Not Relevant

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

1.1 Additional information

› a) In November 2016, the General Office of the State Council unveiled the Wetland Conservation and Restoration Scheme. This scheme outlined a goal of introduction of a system for wetland conservation and restoration in an attempt to secure a guarantee for China’s pursuit of a beautiful country founded upon an eco-civilization system. This was proposed to be achieved by pushing for enhanced protection of wetlands, for stricter monitoring and oversight of the use of wetlands, for restoration of degraded wetland areas and for improved awareness of the society about wetland protection and preservation.

China will set limits on the loss of wetlands. By 2020 the total coverage of wetlands in China, as planned in the scheme, will be no less than 800 million Mu, including at least 700 million Mu of natural wetlands and 3 million Mu of new wetlands and more than one out of two wetlands will be under legal protection of applicable laws and regulations. A stricter monitoring and oversight of the use of wetland, as a recommended strategy listed in the scheme, is expected to help ensure no net losses of wetlands in acreage, maintain the ecological functions and the biodiversity of wetland ecosystems, and upgrade wetland conservation and restoration.

In 2016 the National Development and Reform Commission, in conjunction with another seven ministries and administrations, announced China's Resilience Plan for Arable Land, Grassland, Rivers and Lakes (2016-2030) to establish a sound, long-term mechanism for enhancing resilience of wetlands. As planned, China will first put more efforts to enhance the resilience of lakes and rivers, which have been suffering from severe depletion of natural resources, notorious deterioration of water environment or a high degree of comprehensive ecological vulnerability, through (i) cleaning up and restoration of overused and/or contaminated rivers and lakes; (ii) protection and preservation of wetlands in headwaters areas to keep water supply safe and secure; (iii) control of use of rivers at an environmentally friendly level; (iv) protection and gradual restoration of damaged rivers and lakes to a status of environmental compatibility; (v) stricter control of pumping water from underground; and (vi) protection and ecologically friendly use of aquatic wildlife.

In February 2017, the State Council gazetted China's National General Land Use Plan (2016-2030). The plan provides that (i) freshwater and marine ecosystems be strictly protected and restored and consolidate the protection of water supply areas, river headwaters and wetlands; (ii) any developments that might impose

threats to water supply be merely banned while rehabilitating forests, grassland and wetland ecosystems to improve their ecological functions and services in terms of provision of water; (iii) most important ecological functions and services of wetlands be restored and rehabilitated through implementing large-scale wetland restoration programmes based on sound knowledge of environmental and ecological engineering available as well increasing acreage of wetlands by converting farmland to wetlands.
The terrestrial landmass of China is classified into 16 categories of land use according to designated purposes, either for economic development or conservation purposes. Four categories of land are planned for wetland protection and restoration purposes. They are Land for Human Settlements and Agriculture, Land for Protection of Water Supply, Land for Prevention and Reduction of Sandstorm, and Land for Retaining Natural Ecosystems. Compatible actions for wetland conservation in each type of land should well fit their specific purposes.
Taking the category of Land for Retaining Natural Ecosystems as an example, activities, such as high-density development activities and extensive exploration of wetland resources, are not allowed, in order to reduce human-induced disturbances. An increase in vegetation coverage, protection of wetland ecosystems, and conversion of farmland to wetlands will help contribute to reducing risks of flooding.
Again in terms of the category of Land for Human Settlements and Agriculture, it is regulated that green space and wetlands in towns and cities should be protected; the ecological health of lakes should also be kept healthy; ecological connectivity between rivers and lakes should be re-established and fertile agricultural fields should be kept from being used for different purposes.
In February 2017 a newly released policy of the Multiple Opinions on Setting and Sticking to Ecological Red Lines numbered the minimum acreage of wetlands, grassland and forest ecosystems that should be maintained in the ecological protection redlines. An ecological protection redline is functionally equivalent to a zone prohibited for economic development.
At present, China is in an effort to identify the redlines for environmental protection. The initiative will contribute to inclusion of the regions of high ecological importance (including wetlands) and of high ecological vulnerability into the areas set aside for the purpose of ecological protection.
b) On November 29th, 2015 the State Council released a policy concerning the Decisions on Winning the Battle against Poverty, calling for regarding environmental protection as a measure to alleviate poverty. It is provided that an inclination to have more national projects and programmes, either concerning wetland conservation and restoration or about environmental improvement of aquatic ecosystems, implemented in the economically disprivileged regions, will provide poor people with more opportunities to supplement their income. The policy also requested a move to push for restoring degraded environment in poverty-stricken regions and to increase funds transferred from the central government to local governments responsible for the key ecological function zones of national importance in their administrative boundaries.
In addition, the establishment of a national park system in China will be expected to create new ways to unlock natural capital, including forking out some ear-marked funds for eco-compensation and for ecological protection programmes, so as to hire poor people qualified for being a forest/park ranger as a supplementary workforce for China’s national park management. Finally, it is also proposed to pilot eco-compensation in poverty-ridden areas, so as to improve the existing system for compensating public benefits of forest ecosystems on a dynamic basis. This will help establish a trans-boundary, landscape-scale eco-compensation system in China.
c) In 2016 the Ministry of Water Resources unveiled the Thirteenth Five-year Plan for Reform and Development of Water Resources. The national plan gave an overall 2020 goal for China to use water effectively and efficiently. It also outlined the detailed objectives concerning improving the efficiency of water use, concerning protection of aquatic ecosystems, and concerning reform of water conservancy. The target objective for protection of aquatic ecosystems included: (a) In terms of water quality, at least 80 per cent of major rivers and lakes of national significance should meet the national criteria applicable to each type of body of water; (b) The environmental flows required to sustain freshwater and estuarine ecosystems, human well-being and livelihoods that depend on them should be largely secured; the water surface coverage of rivers and lakes should be no “net loss” and the health of aquatic ecosystems should have a significant improvement; (c) Land improvement/amelioration should save 270,000 hectares of land from runoff-induced soil loss; and (d) over-extraction of water from underground should be strictly controlled in pursuit of a significant reduction of chaos relating to underground water extraction.
d-e,n) In May 2017 the State Oceanic Administration publicized the Thirteenth Five-year Plan for National Oceanic Development. In this plan, the agency proposed to enhance governance of marine ecosystems in line with the philosophy of building an eco-civilization. To achieve this, it will require to give priority to protection and restoration of marine ecosystems, to push for efficient use of marine resources and for a low-carbon, ocean-dependent economy, and to improve the resilience of marine ecosystems to natural disasters and events.
The core of the plan consisted of four areas, which were: (a) to develop a plan optimizing development of marine resources-dependent industries; (b) to nurture innovation-driven industries; and (c) to promote a cooperative development among the coastal regions based upon a far-sighted, strategic national plan.
f) In May 2016 the State Forestry Administration issued the Thirteenth Five-year Plan for Forestry in China, outlining a big picture for China’s forestry development and listing forest projects to be funded by the central government in the next five years. In terms of wetlands, the plan set a goal of restoring 140,000 hectares, helping achievement of the ultimate goal for all-round protection of wetlands in China.

g,n) On January 18th, 2017 the Ministry of Agriculture issued the Thirteenth Five-year Plan for Fishery Scientific and Technical Development, pointing out that the bodies of water used for fishery should also appropriately perform their other ecological goods and services. Restoring the amount of fishery resources to an eco- and fishery industry-friendly level, rehabilitating severely degraded freshwater and marine ecosystems used for fishery and other purposes, and protecting rare and endangered species of fishes were highlighted as key priorities for action.
h) In 2010 the Ministry of Environmental Protection announced the National Strategies and Action Plan for Biodiversity Protection (2011-2030), identifying an overall goal with high priority strategies and actions for the next two decades. Wetland conservation was also one of the priorities for strengthening China’s biodiversity conservation. Up to now, there are 18 provinces or municipalities that have announced a provincial equivalent.
i) In December 2016 the National Energy Administration released the Thirteenth Five-year Plan for China's Energy Development, aiming to promote exploitation and use of ocean energy and to phase out outdated production capacity with closure of all the coal mines in nature reserves, scenic areas, and drinking water protection areas.
j) The State Council announced the Thirteenth Five-year Plan for the Development of Tourism Industry in which forest parks and wetland parks were identified as new destination sites for growing tourism. The State Tourism Administration also took a leading role in development of some trans-boundary, strategic plans concerning tourism, including the Tourism Master Plan for Jinghang Grand Canal and the Outlines of a Development Plan for the Yangtze River Golden Tourism Belt, in order to seek a balance between wetland-based tourism development and wetland protection.
The wetland is now recognized as a type of tourist destination, as indicated in the National Plan for Eco-tourism Development and Operations, a national criteria that was developed to protect ecological systems for a sustainable harmony between environmental protection and tourism development.
Sustainable and non-extractive use of wetland resources is a favour. Making efforts to pilot eco-tourism in wetlands will help enhance the awareness of the public about wetlands and inspire them to learn more about wetland ecosystems. All such efforts will be paid off with increased care for wetland conservation among the public.
k) The National State-of-the-Art Urbanization Planning (2014-2020), issued in 2014, indicated that the redlines for environmental protection should be soundly identified on the basis of expansion of urban ecological space and the coverage of forests and wetlands, including lakes. Applicable policies on urban and rural development regulate inclusion of establishment of the national urban wetland park.
l) In January 2017 the Ministry of Land and Resources gave the National Land Consolidation Plan (2016-2020), demanding improvement of ecological conditions in the most fragile, vulnerable regions, where soil loss, desertification, and deforestation prevail, through environmental protection and restoration on the principle that protection and preservation must bear top priority, and that passive restoration that relies on natural process is preferred. It is provided that tangible means should be taken to consolidate protection of critical regions, including the National–level Zones Prohibited for Development, the Key Ecological Function Zones and the ecological vulnerable regions and to put a stricter control on exploitation and use of natural forests (including non-commercial forests), natural grassland and prairies, and wetlands including rivers and lakes.
o) In May 2015 the General Office of the State Council put out the Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, urging to push for improvement of water quality in wetlands. According to the plan, by 2020 the water quality in seven of the most significant river basins will come into the range of health condition of “Fine”. That means the water quality sampled from 70 per cent of each segment of the rivers should live up to Grade III or above, as indicated by China’s national standards for water quality. The seven rivers are the Yangtze River, the Yellow River, the Pearl River, the Songhua River, the Huai River, the Hai River and the Liao River. The percentage of the most polluted and foul-odoured water bodies in cities at the prefecture level or above will be kept below 10%. The water quality of 93 per cent of centralized drinking-water sources for these cities will meet China’s water-quality standards for Grade III or above.
In terms of water underground, the share of water graded V or below will be around 15 per cent. The water quality in 70 per cent of coastal and nearshore wetlands will reach or go beyond Grade II. The water bodies, whose ecological services are significantly degraded or totally lost, will account for no more than 15 per cent of the wetlands in the Jing-jin-ji Region. The Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta will be devoid of wetlands that are hardly ecologically useless due to notorious water quality. Other policy documents, such as the Planning for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution in Key Watersheds (2016-2020) and the Scheme for Prevention and Control of Pollution in Coastal and Nearshore Areas, also have provisions relating to wetland conservation and management.
p) The Ministry of Finance has released incentive policies on wastewater treatment and reuse. The policies focused either on the enterprise profit tax or on the wastewater treatment service charges.
(1) For the former kind of policies, as regulated in the Enterprise Profit Tax Law and its implementing regulations, any small- and medium-sized corporates that purchase and use environment-friendly equipment, which are officially recommended by the Government, can retreat 10 per cent of their investment in equipment from their taxable income due in that year. If the taxable income is not enough for the deduction in a full year, the rest amount to be taken back may be deducted on a year-on-year basis until all ten per cent of investment is returned over a five-year period. It is concluded that any wastewater reuse systems, as long as they are on the list of equipment released by the Government, are subject to the policy.

(2) For the latter kind of policies: according to the Measures for Levying and Use of Wastewater Treatment Service Charges, any entity or individual who discharges wastewater and/or polluted water to a sewage or wastewater treatment system for towns or cities should pay a sewage treatment fee. Those, either an entity or individual, are not applicable to be charged for the sewage treatment fee when they install their own wastewater treatment facilities and the outflow of the water from these facilities are 100 per cent recycled or released directly to natural water bodies in line with applicable water quality standards for such practices; otherwise, they have to pay the fee by the volume of treated water discharged to any non-privately owned water and sewage treatment utilities.

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.
☑ A=Yes

2.1 Additional Information
› Since 2010, the Ministry of Water Resources has started an initiative for assessment of the ecological health of rivers and lakes. This move enabled China to assess the ecological status in rivers and lakes from multiple dimensions of wetlands, including water quality, ecological connectivity, ecological integrity, biological diversity, as well as ecological goods and services provided by wetlands. It also helped China establish an indicator-based system for evaluating the health of rivers and lakes, so as to strengthen monitoring and appraisal of water quality in wetlands. By the end of 2016, China established 2,747 hydrological monitoring stations or bases for monitoring rivers, 241 for monitoring reservoirs, 28 for monitoring lakes, 45 for monitoring tidal currents, and 14,499 for monitoring water quality of groundwater.
Other efforts that have been made included monitoring the occurrence of harmful algae blooms in large lakes, reservoirs, and urban rivers as well lakes that are vulnerable to algae outbreak and monitoring the ecological conditions of water bodies. In 2017 a report on the status quo of China’s rivers and lakes was published based on the results of a nationwide census of wetland resources. Three components of the book are as follows: (1) the number, distribution and their natural features of the rivers with a drainage basin larger than 50 square kilometres; (2) the number, distribution, natural features as well as shape and form of the lakes with a year-round water surface area larger than one square kilometre; and (3) the rivers and lakes that are most common in China.

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)
☑ A=Yes

2.2 Additional Information

› In 2010 the General Office of the Ministry of Water Resources announced a notice to put into effect the Working Outline for Piloting Assessment of the Health of Rivers and Lakes of National Importance and the Indicators, Standards and Methodology for River Health Assessment Pilot Initiative. This announcement of the two national guiding documents marked a remarkable start for China to manage its rivers and lakes in an environment flow-based approach. It was estimated that a working procedure for assessing the health of China’s rivers and lakes would be in place as early as 2016.
The project of River Health and Environmental Flows in China, funded by the Australia-China Environmental Development Programme (ACEDP) that was completed in 2012, recommended a river health assessment protocol based on the concept of environmental flows and tested the system in three pilot areas, which were the Yellow River, the Pearl River, and the Liao River Basins.
The indicators for watershed-scale river health assessment have also been developed and tested in China. The Yangtze River Water Resources Commission established an assessment system for evaluation of the health of the great river.
In line with the primary management goal set for management of the Yangtze River, the assessment system consists of 14 categories of indicators that can reflect the conditions of the most significant ecological goods and services provided by the longest river of China, indicating whether the specified, ultimate management objectives—environmental protection, flooding control and water use—are met in a balanced way.
The system is composed of 26 indicators, including the stability of river embankments, the surface area of water, the connectivity with surrounding landscapes, the habitat for fishes, and the fish passage. This was the first protocol of such kind in China.
The Yellow River Water Resources Commission has similarly embraced a new philosophy of keeping the Yellow River flourish that boosts restoring and maintaining the river.

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

☑ A=Yes

2.3 Additional Information

› China has set a goal to practice the strictest management of water resources with the aim of saving enough water for environmental purposes. The policy has been put into practice nationwide, resulting in the establishment of a three-tiered evaluation system for water resources management at the provincial, municipal, and county levels and of a principal official accountability system.
The Ministry of Water Resources and the National Development and Reform Commission set up a joint working group responsible for evaluating the implementation of the policy and for announcing their evaluation reports reviewed by the State Council.
In 2016, the General Office of the State Council gave high commendation to Shandong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Chongqing and Shanghai provinces/municipalities for their outstanding performance in enforcing the policy.
The practice of the policy has greatly contributed to a slow increase in water consumption in all provinces of China. Some rough statistics indicated that China’s water consumption stood at 603.72 billion cubic meters in 2016, making it feasible to save water for environmental purposes, including maintaining wetlands.

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.)

☑ D=Planned

2.4 Additional Information

› In China, it is a mandatory guideline to allocate water resources in a sound way for improvement of the environmental conditions in wetlands. As indicated in a series of applicable plans, such as the Integrated Planning for China's Water Resources, the Twelfth Five-year Plan for China's Water Resources Development, and the National Water Resources Protection Plan, it is consistently stressed that a rational volume of water should be left out in water bodies merely for environmental purposes. The National Eco-functional Zoning Plan for Major Rivers and Lakes in China, approved by the State Council in 2011, firstly defined water bodies, situated either in a Ramsar site or on a patch of natural habitat with high priority for conservation known as “Conserved Areas”. The clear definition helps manage the water quality in these kinds of wetlands in line with their specific management goal(s).
To establish a water allocation system that does not conflict with environmental requirements is one of the major tasks to be achieved as planned in China’s eco-civilization blueprint. One of the most effective measures, it is recommended that, is to develop and improve the system for initial allocation of water rights plus a transboundary eco-compensation scheme. In 2016 the proposal for establishment of an improved mechanism for initial allocation of water-use rights was discussed at the fourth session of the twelfth National People’s Congress.
A principal official accountability system is applied in China to enforce wetland conservation and restoration. In compliance with the 2016 work plan prepared by the Reform Office of the Central Government, the Ministry of Water Resources took a leading role in formulation of the Opinions on Application of River Chief System. On November 28th, 2016 the General Office of the Central Committee of the Party and the General Office of the State Council co-released the policy of accountability. It provided that protection and restoration of rivers and lakes should be strengthened and encroachment of natural rivers, lakes and other wetlands functioning as areas for water supply should be fully stopped.
So far, detailed plans for full implementation of the policy have been released or under review by each province, municipality and autonomous region.

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.)

☑ A=Yes

2.5 Additional Information

› In the water allocation plans approved by the State Council for the Yellow River, the Heihe River, the main course of the Yongding River, and the Daling River, it is an important objective to save a rational share of water for environmental purposes.
Over the past decade, the ecological conditions of some rivers and lakes, including the Yellow River, the Talmu River, the Heihe River, the wetland of Xianghai, the wetland of Zhalong, the Nansi Lake, the Tai Lake, the Baiyang Lake and the Hengshui Lake, have showed a consistent, significant improvement. The positive change resulted from the implementation of a system combining a mechanism for a unified allocation of water resources and a system for recharging water into depleted wetlands, thanks to the existing hydraulic facilities and the implementation of lots of projects focusing on reallocating or recharging water to wetlands to

meet their environmental requirements.

2.6 How many household/municipalities are linked to sewage system? SDG Target 6.3.1.
☑ E=Exact number (households/municipalities)

› 2131

2.6 Additional Information
› By the end of 2016, 2,131 sets of sewage systems were installed in 657 cities and 1,474 sets in the county-level cities.

2.7 What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country? SDG Target 6.3.1.
☑ E=Exact number (percentage)

› 89.55

2.7 Additional Information
› The percentage of sewage coverage is now 92.4 in cities above the county level and 86.7 in the county-level cities

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

2.8 Additional Information
› There are many septic tanks/pit latrines in use in China, which has launched specific projects to upgrade or replace them. The city of Hefei, for example, plans to have all pit latrines as many as 364,000 upgraded by the end of 2020.

2.9 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? SDG Target 6.3.1.
☑ A=Yes

2.9 Additional Information
› Since 1980s, a couple of constructed wetlands/ponds-based wastewater treatment systems have been installed and put into use in Changping District of Beijing as well as Bainikeng and Shatian in the city of Shenzhen in addition to an artificial wetland water purification system piloted at the Honghu Lake. There are, however, small-scale artificial wetlands created in cities, urban residential neighbourhood, and rural villages, though the exact number is unknown. The development of man-made wetlands or ponds constructed for treatment of wastewater or sewage is still at an infant phase.

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

2.10 Additional Information
› On March 1st, 2011 the Engineering Technology for Treating Wastewater in Constructed Wetlands came into effect. Despite their remarkable performance, small-sized artificial wetlands/ponds are still playing a minor role in treating wastewater or sewage in China. For now they have been mainly used to treat polluted water from agricultural non-point sources and from urban or road runoff. On rare occasions, they are used to treat special wastewater produced by mining fields or pig farms. Technology required to install and maintain an artificial wetland-based wastewater treatment system is the biggest bottleneck for a wider application of the approach.

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

☑ G=More than (plants)

2.11 Additional Information
› There are more than 3,991 cities (including those at the county-level) with centralized wastewater treatment plants. As indicated in the Statistical Communiqué of China's Rural and Urban Development, issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, 1,808 centralized wastewater treatment plants in cities above the county level had a daily treatment capacity of 130.88 million cubic meters; another 1,554 plants in the county-level cities could treat wastewater of 28.81 million cubic meters per day. These plants altogether accounted for an annual treatment capacity of 47.6 billion tons of wastewater, amounting to 88.2 per cent of that produced by all of the cities.

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

☑ A=Good

2.12 Additional Information
› China’s wastewater treatment plants run well, although there is still much room for improvement in the following specific aspects: (a) the actual volume of wastewater treated does not keep pace with the highest potential for wastewater treatment facilities; (b) the quality of effluent water is far below Grade II, as defined by China’s national standards for water quality; and (c) the sludge is often removed without proper treatment, causing environmental pollution and ecological risks.

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

2.13 Additional Information
› In 2014 there was 71.62 billion tons of wastewater generated in China; of which 47.6 billion tons was treated in 3,362 centralized wastewater treatment plants in cities at all levels and the rest, accounting for 33.5 per cent of all wastewater released in that year, was either treated in non-centralized wastewater treatment plants or untreated at all.

2.14 Is there a wastewater reuse system? SDG Target 6.3.1.
☑ A=Yes

2.14 Additional Information
› In 2014 wastewater treated in all cities with centralized treatment plants was 20.65 million cubic meters per day. In total, 40.17 billion cubic meters of wastewater was generated by the cities and nine per cent of it, equivalent to 3.63 billion cubic meters, was reused. There were no statistics for the volume of wastewater reused in the county-level towns.

2.15 What Is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system? SDG Target 6.3.1.
☑ S=Landscape

2.15 Additional Information

Please indicate if the wastewater reuse system is for free or taxed or add any additonal information.
› Recycled water was mainly for municipal purpose (e.g. landscaping and gardening), and environmental (e.g. replenishment of surface and underground water bodies) uses. So far, a fee is charged for use of recycled water in China.

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
☑ A=Yes

3.1 Additional Information
› In May 2015 the General Office of the State Council put out the Notice Concerning Guiding Opinions on Promotion of Public-Private Co-funding Mechanisms, jointly developed by the Ministry of Finance and the National Development and Reform Commission. The notice called for introduction of public-private partnerships to increase the supply of public goods and services to thirteen fields of public service, including environmental protection, management of water resources, and agriculture.
In September 2016 the Changshu Declaration on Wetland, the final decision of the 10th International Wetlands Conference, was passed at the conference. It called for private sector and for-profit organizations to help maintain the ecological sustainability of wetlands by managing their supply chains, so as not to impose negative impacts on wetlands.
In the Notice on Issuing Wetland Conservation and Restoration Scheme, released by the General Office of the State Council in December 2016, provided that an increase in funding for wetland protection and restoration relied on a variety of sources of funds, including the Government, the private sector, and the public.

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	☐ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☑ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned ☐ X=Unknown ☐ Y=Not Relevant
b) Wetlands in general	☐ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☑ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned ☐ X=Unknown ☐ Y=Not Relevant

3.2 Additional information

› By October 13th, 2016 the Ministry of Finance, in conjunction with nineteen other government agencies, implemented three batches of projects on piloting public-private partnerships, including 70 projects relating to wetland restoration and wastewater treatment. The Private sector has a growing interest in China’s Sponge City Initiative and the development of wetland parks.

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

☑ A=Yes

3.3 Additional information

› The Opinions on Improvement of Eco-compensation Mechanisms, released by the General Office of the State Council in 2016, outlined that China is: (1) to explore the feasibility of establishment of an eco-compensation mechanism for wetlands by kicking off the move with piloting projects at national wetland nature reserves, the Ramsar sites, and other wetlands of national significance; (2) to modify the existing policies to enhance subsidies for fishermen, who are willing to take a job or start a business that is beyond the fishery; (3) to subsidize the regions of ecological importance with higher subsidy rates by fundraising more money. The critical regions include the headwaters of rivers and lakes, the sources of centralized drinking water supply, the ecologically vulnerable segments of rivers, the segments of rivers in need of ecological restoration, the conserved wetland areas for aquatic germplasm resources, the regions susceptible to water and soil loss, the regions managed to control flooding in the basins of big rivers and lakes, and the lakes either used as most important resources for drinking water or protected for provision of many other important ecological functions.
Any natural wetlands, which are classified as open space in land use planning concerning urban and rural development, may be upgraded as a national wetland park from being a green park.

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

☑ A=Yes

3.4 Additional Information

› In 2016 the General Office of the State Council pointed out in the Opinions on Improvement of Eco-compensation Mechanisms that policy modification would be made to enhance subsidies for fishermen, who are willing to take a new job or set up a new business after they withdraw from the sector of fishery and that a policy on provision of the minimum livelihood allowances to fishermen during the close season of fishing in summer would be continue to be effective.
In conjunction with another seven ministries and administrations, the National Development and Reform Commission in 2016 announced China's Resilience Plan for Arable Land, Grassland, Rivers and Lakes (2016-2030).
Some of the objectives set for 2020 in the plan are as below: (a) to maintain the area of grassland and prairies through restoring rivers and lakes and keeping wetlands “no net loss”; (b) to improve the soil fertility of arable land and the ecological functions of arable land, grassland, rivers and lakes for an enhanced capacity for provision of natural resources; (c) to curb the trend of environmental deterioration in farmland and improve the ecological conditions in the severely degraded regions; and (d) to establish a platform combining policies and techniques available for effective conservation and utilization of natural resources, so as to help China shift to a new path from the current one, which relies heavily on unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.
The specific objectives set for wetland-relevant work are as follows: (a) by 2020 the volume of water consumed per year in China will be no more than 670 billion cubic meters; (b) the effective utilization coefficient of irrigation water will climb to 0.55; (c) 70 per cent of the large- and medium-sized irrigation regions will record the total amount of water used for irrigation of agricultural fields; (d) the environmental

flows in rivers and lakes will increase to a level, living up to the minimum flows and the lowest water levels necessary for preventing significant harm from the rivers and lakes; (e) the amount of raw sewage flowing out of sewer outlets will decrease to such an extent that the water quality in 70 per cent groundwater bodies of China can meet Grade III or above of China's national standards for water quality. In addition, the quality of water of the rivers and lakes will have a significant improvement, leading to at least 80 per cent of them meeting their water quality standards; (f) an initial mechanism for management and regulating of the use of rivers, lakes and coastal wetlands will be established to ensure that these wetlands can be effectively protected and the water-covered area of these wetlands will not get smaller; (g) over-extraction of underground water will be kept under stricter control for a sharp reduction in the amount of water pumped up from the regions suffering from severe water exploitation; and (h) an initial mechanism will be introduced to for rehabilitation of rivers and lakes, so that aquatic wildlife will show a natural tendency to turn gradually into population recovery.

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
☑ A=Yes

4.1 Additional information
› A list of China's invasive alien species is periodically compiled by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Four lists with invasive species recorded in wetlands in China have been released up to now. The Ministry also developed a list of invasive alien species in national nature reserves, based on the findings deducted from the survey of the status of alien species in wetland nature reserves.
The Database on Invasive Alien Species in China gives records of invasive and exotic pathogens and of invasive plants and animals. The platform was a joint effort by the Research Centre for Prevention and Control of Invasive Alien Species of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Research Centre for Plant Protection of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.
All the entries of invasive species are accessible to the public for free and some data, including the records on the spatial distribution of invasive species and on-line request for species identification, is now restricted to registered members.
The issue of invasive species has also caused a growing concern from provincial governments. Some provinces or municipalities, e.g. Yunnan, released a list of invasive species in wetlands in their administrative boundaries and gave the profile of each invasive species recorded.

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
☑ C=Partially

4.2 Additional information
› Given the fact China is one of the countries which suffer the most from the invasive alien species, experts entrusted by the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Forestry Administration are developing the Regulation on Management of Invasive Species and the List of Most Dangerous Invasive Species in China (Series No. 2). China is considering to enact a law on management of invasive species to catch up with international best practices. There is a high likelihood for China to put in place a comprehensive, sound and effective system for management of invasive species. Such a system, it is envisioned that, may consist of multiple modules focusing on different aspects of management of invasive species, such as an inventory of invasive species, site risk assessment before intending to introduce an invasive species, tracking and monitoring after an invasive species having been introduced, an early warning system and emergency plans, and legal responsibilities for damages caused by invasive species.
The Ministry of Agriculture also published a handbook entitled Manual on Integrated Prevention and Control of Most Dangerous Invasive Species in China.
To ensure biosecurity, the Ministry of Environmental Protection in 2015 put forward a series of detailed management objectives for control, prevention and monitoring of the invasive species that has dramatically expanded its range in natural ecosystems in the Notice Concerning Better Prevention, Control and Monitoring of Invasive Species in Natural Ecosystems. The decision will greatly help China lessen threats from invasive species to its pristine ecosystems.

4.3 How many invasive species are being controlled through management actions.
☑ X=Unknown

4.3 Additional information

If ‘Yes’, please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information
› Efforts to prevent and control different kinds of alien invasive species, such as Spartina alterniflora, alligator weed (Alternanthera philoxeroides) and Pomacea scalaris, have been made in many wetlands all over China. For example, invasive alien species being controlled in the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site include Sonneratia, Mikania, red imported fire ant and apple snail on a regular basis.
According to relevant statistics released by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2016, China established twenty sites for piloting prevention and control of invasive alien species, 24 bases for breeding natural predators of invasive species, and three bases for demonstrating ecologically benign replacement technology (e.g. biological control of invasive species by using co-evolved natural enemies). Thus, a set of approaches for effective management of the most common invasive species were developed and a chain of technology was widely promoted.
Despite the fact that those efforts contributed much to the establishment of an initial system for prevention and control of invasive species, there lacks accurate data on their direct effects on removing invasive species or containing them to defined areas. This is for the reason that a growing number of invasive species has aggressively been spread at an unprecedented speed in China.

4.4 Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?
☑ C=Partially

4.4 Additional information
› Efforts to control Spartina alterniflora were made at Chongming-dongtan in Shanghai and Beihai in Guangxi province and the effectiveness of the approaches used for such control attempts were also evaluated.

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
☑ A=Yes

5.1 Additional information
› The wetland conservation plans, prepared by the State Forestry Administration over the past four year, outlined a series of development goals for management of the Ramsar sites in China. During the period from 2014 to 2016, three sites were designated as a Ramsar site. Now, there are 49 Ramsar sites in China.

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
☑ A=Yes

5.2 Additional information
› When nominating a candidate wetland for Ramsar designation, China always refers to all information and tools recommended by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to ensure the nomination in compliance with all the applicable criteria and requirements.

5.3 How many Ramsar Sites have an effective, implemented management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i
☑ E=Exact number (sites)

› 49

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
☑ E=Exact number (sites)

› 49

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
☑ X=Unknown

5.3 – 5.5 Additional information
› All of the Ramsar sites in China are nature reserves, a category of protected areas. According to applicable regulations on management of nature reserves, it is a mandatory practice for each nature reserve to prepare a development plan, an equivalent of management plans. In the Regulation on Protection and Management of Wetlands (Version for Public Comments), drafted by the State Forestry Administration, included an article,

providing that a management plan should be prepared for a Ramsar site and get implemented. The move was an effort to keep pace with international best practices.

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
☑ C=Partially

5.6 Additional information
› The management effectiveness in another nine Ramsar sites as part of the project areas of a GEF5-funded wetland conservation project, was assessed twice with a GEF-METT method, after China released the Bulletin of Ecological Status of China's Ramsar Sites (2009-2012), including the conclusion from similar assessments conducted in each of 41 Ramsar sites at that time.
The nine sites were the Shengjinhu Lake, the wetland of Dongzhaigang, the Nanweng River, the Qixing River, the wetland of Zhenbaodao, the Chenhu Lake, the Dajiuhu Lake, and the Honghu Lake.

5.7 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.4} {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv
☑ E=Exact number (sites)

› 20

5.7 Additional information

If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites
› Guangxi Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve (1728), Shankou Mangrove Nature Reserve (1153), Fujian Zhangjiangkou National Mangrove Nature Reserve (1726), Hubei Honghu Wetlands (1729), Hubei Chen Lake Wetland Nature Reserve (2184), Sichuan Ruoergai Wetland National Nature Reserve (1731), Hangzhou Xixi Wetlands (1867), Eling Lakev(1436), Zhaling Lake (1442), Niaodao (also known as 'Bird Island') (552), Jilin Momoge National Nature Reserve (2188), Dashanbao (1435), Shandong Yellow River Delta Wetland (2187), Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve, Shanghai (1144), Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve (1157), Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve (1727), Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve (1150), Dongdongtinghu (551), Mai Po Marshes and Inner Deep Bay (750)

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
☑ E=Exact number (sites)

› 49

5.8 Additional information

If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites
› It is regulated that any Ramsar site should have a comprehensive, scientific survey report covering its basic information, including general ecological features, flora and fauna, limnology, hydrological values, social and cultural values, on-going conservation efforts, utilization practices of wetland resources, and conservation and management status. Such a report is enough for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands in line with the recommended explanatory notes and guidelines for filling out the information sheet.

5.9 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i
☑ 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
› According to the latest data collected by the GEF Office of the State Forestry Administration, all projects under the Programme, entitled CBPF-Main Streams of Life (MSL): Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation, funded under the GEF5 funding cycle, twice assessed the management effectiveness of nine Ramsar sites. They were the Shengjinhu Lake, the wetland of Dongzhaigang, the Nanweng River, the Qixing River, the wetland of Zhenbaodao, the Chenhu Lake, the Dajiuhu Lake, and the Honghu Lake.
The management of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site is subject to regular reviews based on results of different ecological monitoring programmes.

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
☑ A=Yes

7.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established
› Released by the State Forestry Administration at a periodical time interval, the bulletin of the ecological conditions of China's Ramsar sites can give the management authorities of the Ramsar sites the latest updates about any changes happened to wetlands over time, including the size of a Ramsar site, the coverage of wetlands, the number of species, the population of waterbird species, the number of endangered species, the coverage of habitat occupied by invasive plants, and the change of land use.
The Scheme for Early Warning of Changes in the Features of Ramsar Sites (Tentative), announced by the State Forestry Administration on March 6th, 2014, put in place a three-tiered alerting system, using a Yellow, Orange and Red approach, in order from the least to most serious, to indicate the changes of ecological features of China's Ramsar sites.
The report entitled 2014 Annual Report on Remote Sensing Monitoring of Global Environment, released by the Ministry of Science and Technology, gave an analysis of the changes in acreage of one hundred large Ramsar sites in the world (including twenty distributed in China) based on satellite image data for the period from 2001 to 2013.
A Baseline Ecological Monitoring Programme for the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site is in place under the direct management of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the local Administrative Authority.

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
☑ 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
› As indicated in the Bulletin of Ecological Status of China's Ramsar Sites, released by the State Forestry Administration, and the 2014 Annual Report on Global Remote Sensing Monitoring of Global Eco-Environment, published by the Ministry of Science and Technology, there has been no great negative changes recorded yet.

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
☑ Z=Not Applicable

7.3 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken
› n/a

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
☑ A=Yes

8.1 Additional information
› All information, data and findings from the second national survey of China's wetlands no less than eight hectares in size were compiled and published online and in print books.

8.2 Has your country updated a National Wetland Inventory in the last decade?
☑ A=Yes

8.2 Additional information
› As stated in the column of "Additional information" for Question 8.2, China's national wetland inventory was updated, introducing the survey results from the second survey of China's wetlands. The updating involved eleven types of data, including the type of wetlands, the coverage of wetlands, the distribution of wetlands, artificial recharge of wetlands, the conditions of wildlife, and land titles to wetlands. In terms of 1,579 wetlands of national importance, another five pieces of inventory records, including water quality in wetlands,

protection and use of wetlands, threats to wetlands, were also changed up to date.

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

☑ A=Yes

8.3 Additional information

› The Wetland Resource Monitoring Center of the State Forestry Administration is responsible for maintaining the national wetland resource inventory, enabling both the Government and the pulic accessible to the latest data for making wetland-related decisions. For example, the Wetland Office of the State Forestry Administration in 2014 had the records of 20 Ramsar sites updated. Simlar updating was made to another 15 Ramsar sites in 2016.

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

☑ A=Yes

8.4 Additional information

› The Wetland Resource Monitoring Center of the State Forestry Administration is responsible for maintaining the national wetland resource inventory for public and government use. Provincial and local government agencies at different levels are respectively in charge of updating data on wetlands within their geographical jurisdiction. For example, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region periodically updates its wetland inventory and information for government use.
As far as the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is concerned, the wetland inventory data are for government’s internal use but can be shared out to other stakeholders upon request.

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	☐ N=Status Deteriorated ☑ O=No Change ☐ P=Status Improved
b) Wetlands generally	☑ N=Status Deteriorated ☐ O=No Change ☐ P=Status Improved

8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b)

› a) The census data from China’s second survey of wetlands showed that there is no great changes in the acreage and ecological conditions of all China’s Ramsar sites.
b) The survey also revealed that China had a loss of 3,376,200 hectares of wetlands from 56,978,800 hectares in 2003. That is, the total area of China’s wetlands had reduced 9.33 per cent over a decade between the two surveys conducted in 2003 and 2013.
The ecological health of wetland ecosystems in China showed a worrisome trend, as revealed in the Bulletin on China's 2016 Annual Environment Conditions, released by the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Data collected from 22 monitoring sites covering 68,225 square kilometres of marine ecosystems indicated that six types of coastal and estuary wetlands (river estuaries, coastal bays, tidal wetlands, coral reefs, mangrove swamps, and seagrasses) were in an overall good condition. The bulletin also showed that most coastal bays and rive estuaries were in a status of suboptimal ecological health except that the ecological conditions in the Hangzhou Bay and the Jinzhou Bay were in peril.
Main threats to the wetlands that had been monitored included reclamation for agriculture and human settlements development, pollution, overharvesting, and invasive alien species. The water quality and the ecological status of the conserved species in a major proportion of the wetlands remained quite stable as shown by relevant monitoring data.

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

☑ E=Exact Number (km2)

› 536,026

8.6 Additional information

If the information is available please indicate the % of change in the extent of wetlands over the last three years.
› There are 536,026 square kilometres of wetlands in China, as revealed by the results from the second survey of wetland resources, which was completed in 2013.
In the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the wetland inventory of Hong Kong only records inland wetland of six categories (reservoir, aquaculture pond, wet agricultural land, marsh, river & stream and drainage channel) instead of all wetlands according to the Ramsar definition.

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
☑ A=Yes

9.1 Additional information
› Main policies or government document equivalents announced during the period from 2014 to 2017 are as follows:
The Management Measures for Forestry Subsidy Fund Appropriated by Central Government, released in 2014, covering policies on piloting an initiative for wetland eco-compensation, on conversion of agricultural fields to wetlands at pilot sites, on protection and restoration of wetlands, and on rewarding local government for their outstanding performance in protection of wetlands.
The Notice Concerning Further Strengthening Management of National Wetland Parks, issued by the State Forestry Administration in 2014.
China's Resilience Plan for Arable Land, Grassland, Rivers and Lakes, released on November 18th, 2016, was a joint effort of the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Land and Resources, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Forestry Administration, and the State Administration of Grain.
The Pilot Plan for Wetland Tenure Rights and Titling Registration (Draft Version) and the Plan Concerning Piloting Wetland Titles and Tenure Rights in Gansu and Ningxia Provinces, unveiled by the State Forestry Administration in late 2016.
The Pilot Programme for Identifying Water Tenure Rights, announced on November 15th, 2016, kicked off China's effort to identify water rights.
The Notice on Issuing Wetland Conservation and Restoration Scheme, announced by the General Office of the State Council and the Notice Concerning Strict Prohibition on Lake Reclamation, released by the State Forestry Administration put forward a national plan for conversion farmland to wetlands.
The release of the Thirteenth Five-year Implementation Plan for National Wetland Conservation by the State Forestry Administration, a national strategic plan co-developed by the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Finance, marked China leaping into a new era of wetland conservation from one in which conserving and preserving wetlands were like putting out fires.

9.2 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.5}{1.3.6}
☑ A=Yes

9.2 Additional information
› In 2015 the State Forestry Administration submitted a draft version of the Regulation on Wetland Conservation to the State Council for review, launching an effort to put in place a national regulation or an equivalent on wetland conservation.
In 2016 SFA also gave revisions to the National Wetland Parks Management Measures (Tentative) and the Guiding Principles for Making a Master Plan for National Wetland Parks, further tightening control on adjusting the master plan for any national wetland parks and on granting permits to construction projects of all kinds in wetland parks.

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
☑ A=Yes

9.3 Additional information
› Stricter control on encroachment of wetlands (including lakes, rivers, and coastal wetlands) will be practiced to keep wetlands large enough to maintain their ecological functions. The Ministry of Water Resources carried out a variety of projects to restore wetlands, including conversion of farmland to wetlands, conversion aquiculture ponds to wetlands, removal of river embankments to restore ecological connectivity between

rivers and lakes. It was requested to identify the lowest limits of acreage to be protected in the riverine and lacustrine areas adjacent to all major rivers and lakes. Such areas should be further zoned by land-use purpose as the Environmental Protection Zone, the Zone of Reserves of Land, the Low-intensity Development Zone, and the High-intensity Development Zone, so as to ensure that the resources in the regions can be used in a rational and optimized manner.
Any projects and actions in the four zones should be monitored to see that they comply with applicable laws, regulations, planning and etc. The practice of granting land use permits should be standardized and an off-site wetland mitigation system for compensating unavoidable wetland losses should be put in place, so as to remain the ecological functions of any affected wetlands essentially unchanged. Water exploitation projects should strike a balance to ensure that both the socio-economic development imperatives and ecological needs are equally met. To do so, it is to keep the least acreage of the wetlands affected, so that no negative effects on wetlands will arising from such projects.

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}

☑ D=Planned

9.4 Additional information

› Some pilot projects, such as those carried out in the implementing areas of the GEF5 projects, have been inclusion of proper CEPA expertise and tools in wetland planning and management. Old-fashioned approaches have, however, been applied in promotion of CEPA, since there are few innovative efforts made to develop CEPA tools fitting the needs of a specific project or an unexpected issue arising from wetland management.

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

☑ A=Yes

9.5 Additional information

› A survey of carbon storage in peatland ecosystems in provinces abundant with peat wetlands launched in 2014. The field surveys conducted in four provinces, including Jilin, Liaoning, Heilongjiang, and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, are expected to be completed by the end of 2017. The survey reports prepared based on the research work conducted in Jinlin and Liaoning provinces will be, as planned, reviewed by an expert panel.
On June 12th, 2016 the State Forestry Administration developed the Key Actions for Forestry Sector to Tackle Climate Change during 2016-2020, as an action to translate China’s strategic plans and actions for addressing climate change into tangible conservation practices. The overall goal set for implementation of the actions is to keep the acreage of wetlands in China no less than 800 million Mu, equivalent to 536,026 square kilometres.
To achieve the goal, key actions to be taken were proposed as follows: (a) to push for enactment of the Regulation on Wetland Conservation; (b) to establish a system for wetland protection; (c) to strengthen the development of wetland protected areas; (d) to restore wetland ecosystems and retain carbon storage in wetlands; (e) to strengthen study of key theories and techniques required to understand how wetlands respond and adapt to climate change, so as to contribute to compilation of an implementation plan for mitigating climatic risks after 2020.
On April 27th, 2017 the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and the State Meteorological Administration released the Thematic Plan for Technological Innovations to Address Climate Change. As outlined in the plan, wetland-related actions included: (a) to strengthen research efforts to develop techniques for increasing carbon sequestered in all of most important ecosystems (including wetlands) and pilot their application; (b) to develop techniques for breeding algae and shellfish that have a high capacity for sequestering blue carbon in coastal wetlands and oceans; and (c) to research and explore the capacity of China’s nearshore oceans as a carbon sink, innovate techniques for increasing carbon stored in terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and explore as well promote low-carbon fishery.
The “Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2030+” promulgated in January 2017 has recognised the benefits of protecting and enhancing ecosystems in adapting to climate change (http://www.enb.gov.hk/sites/default/files/pdf/ClimateActionPlanEng.pdf). In addition, the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021 (BSAP) recognises conservation of biodiversity including wetland habitats will play a role in responding to climate change. Studies that will contribute to biodiversity conservation including understanding climate change impacts are proposed to be conducted.

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

☑ C=Partially

9.6 Additional information

› In 2016 the National Development and Reform Commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Land and Resources, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Forestry Administration, and the State Administration of Grain, announced

the Resilience Plan for Arable Land, Grassland, Rivers and Lakes (2016-2030), covering wetland conservation and restoration.
The Thirteenth Five-year Plan for China's Fishery Development, released by the Ministry of Agriculture in January 2017, outlined main objectives for the next five years as below: (a) to establish 80 new national marine farm pilots; (b) to designate new wetlands as nature reserves, so that the national reserves for protecting germ plasm resources will be more than 550 and the national and provincial natural reserves for protecting marine living organisms will go beyond 80 sites; (c) to develop guidelines on sector development and environmental protection in ten regions, including the Bo Sea, the Yellow Sea, the East Sea, the South Sea, the Yangtze River Basin, the Pearl River Basin, the Haihe Basin of the Yellow River Watershed, the Hai River Basin of the Heilong River Watershed, Xinjiang and Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, in line with regulatory land-use purposes identified for the above-mentioned regions.
Pond fish farming is one of the key activities in the Deep Bay wetland system. Technical and financial support has been given to sustainable fisheries development. Management Agreement projects are also implemented to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of freshwater agricultural habitats and

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	☑ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☐ D=Planned
b) climate change	☑ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☐ D=Planned
c) valuation of ecoystem services	☑ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☐ D=Planned

9.7 Additional information

› a) See the additional information given for Question 9.6.
b) The State Forestry Administration launched a survey of carbon stored in the provinces abundant with peatlands in 2014. By the time of the national report for the COP13 is completed, the field research will be virtually completed and analysis of the data collected from field work in Liaoning and Jilin provinces will be essentially done.
c) Valuation of ecological services of wetlands has not nationally initiated, though similar assessments have been conducting by provincial governments. For example, the People’s Government of Jilin Province released on January 24th, 217 that the economic value of ecological services provided by wetlands was as much as RMB 16.193 billion; and that a year-on-year update on dollar value of wetland ecosystems would be made once a year since 2013.
Take forests and wetlands in Xinjiang Autonomous Region. As released by the Provincial government on June 12th, 2017, the total ecological services value for 2014 was RMB 736.604 billion, equivalent to 79.4 per cent of Xinjiang’s 2014 GDP of RMB 927.346 billion. The total estimated value of ecological services provided by forests was 489.08 billion and up to RMB 247.524 billion was generated by wetland ecosystems.
Qinghai province has had nine reports concerning ecological services value in Qinghai prepared, including the Comprehensive Report on Valuing Ecosystems in Qinghai Province, China, Reports on Natural Capital of Forests, Steppes and Wetlands in Qinghai Province, China and Reports on Capital Value of Key Eco-functional Zones in Sanjiangyuan, Qinghai Lake Watershed, and Qilian Mountain Range.
There has been numerous research on valuing ecological services of wetland ecosystems. The scope of study of the research ranged from the national to the provincial to the site level. The Chinese Academy of Forestry Sciences finished the development of methodology and techniques for evaluation of wetland ecological services and compiled the Indicators for Valuing Ecological Services of Coastal Wetlands and the Technical Specifications for Valuing Coastal Wetlands for review. The Ocean University of China assessed the dollar value of coastal wetlands in Shandong province. And also the National Geomatics Centre of China and the Capital Normal University of China calculated the economic value of ecological services of 71 inland wetlands, concluding that climate regulation, flood control and provision of water were top three valuable services of all.

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

☑ A=Yes

9.8 Additional information

If ‘Yes’, please indicate How many request have been submitted
› The release of the Tentative Measures for Wetland City Accreditation on July 12th, 2017 helped push China

application for this prestigious accreditation, further contributing to exposing to the world China's remarkable achievements and progress made in building an ecologically civilized society and to inspiring the Government at all levels and the public to make greater efforts to protect wetlands.
In doing so, implementation of the Wetland Conservation and Restoration Scheme issued by the General Office of the State Council will be more likely to be a success, resulting in a tangible action taken by China to implement the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
A total of six request has been submitted for Wetland City Accreditation from China.

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)
☑ A=Yes

10.1 Additional information
› The Thirteenth Five-year Implementation Plan for National Wetland Conservation, released on April 20th, 2017, called for demonstration of cultural preservation at wetland sites. Tibetan tribes in Northwest Yunnan, Sichuan and Qinghai provinces inherit their ancestors' valuable expertise on wetland management that may simultaneously accommodate the needs for protecting natural environment and for fostering economic development. This means a lot to wetland protection.
Traditional uses of wetland plants that were passed down generation by generation among minority groups bear the core values of sustainable use of natural resources. With rapid changes happened in surrounding settings of minority communities, traditional knowledge is being depleted in an active or passive way. This indicates an urgent necessity to preserve cultural values of wetlands when wetland conservation and management is considered. By doing so, local communities, being a key stakeholder, can benefit directly from wetlands as the closest neighbour of wetland ecosystems.
In the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the traditional aquaculture practice of pond drain-down is recognised as a cultural heritage which is encouraged to be preserved through Management Agreement projects.

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)
☑ B=No

10.2 Additional information

If yes please indicate the case studies or projects documenting information and experiences concerning culture and wetlands
› At present no such efforts have been made at the national level, but wetland-related cultural heritage will be compiled at a right time. A couple of protected areas in a few provinces have made attempts to record cultural expertise in management and use of wetlands. For example, a GEF5-funded Programme entitled CBPF-Main Streams of Life (MSL): Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation covered activities concerning promotion of the application of cultural knowledge to wetland management and conservation.
Sponsored by the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust, the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society has conducted a project on documenting the cultural heritage of fishpond culture in Hong Kong through interviews with local fishpond operators.

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)
☑ A=Yes

10.3 Additional information

If the answer is "yes" please indicate the use or aplication of the guidelines
› The Management Agreement projects conducted in the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site of Hong Kong SAR involves collaboration with the local fishpond operators and encourages the traditional practice of pond drain-down for bird conservation. On the other hand, Management Agreement project in wet agricultural land also involves the participation of local farmers in conserving the wetland. The wise use of wetland habitats is in line with the said 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)
☑ A=Yes

10.4 Additional information
› Since COP12, China has started to take an unprecedented move to learn from previous efforts made for wetland conservation in pursuit of sharing and promotion of valuable theoretical findings and proven best practices. The initiative allowed China to make use of time-tested wetland expertise for better management of wetlands.
In November 2014 a book entitled Wetland Protection and Management Practices in Hubei Province, China, published by the Hubei Science and Technology Press, had a detailed introduction to wetland practices in Hubei province. Hubei's efforts will give other provinces in China a good reference when wetland management and conservation is considered.
A book titled Reviving Lakes and Wetlands in the People's Republic of China, Volume 3: Best Practices and Prospects for the Sanjiang Plain Wetlands, released by the Asian Development Bank, was a remarkable effort that had compiled best practices for watershed management and management of wetland protected areas by recommending policy strategies for sustainable development of wetlands.
A Sino-US Wetland Protection Workshop was held at Xixi Wetland, Hangzhou City during the period from June 30th to July 2nd, 2017. To share knowledge and best practices, multiple issues were covered at this event, including policies for wetland management, identifying redlines for wetland conservation, eco-compensation for wetlands, wetland restoration, and integrated watershed management. Actions on how to tackle management challenges were also brainstormed at the event.

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
☑ A=Yes

11.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, how many Ramsar Sites and their names
› The results from the second national survey of China's wetlands are detailed enough for valuing ecological services provided by the Ramsar Sites or other wetlands in China. The economic value of China's wetland ecosystems was given in the report on the survey mentioned in the column for "additional information" for Question 9.7.
It is planned in the Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans to commission a study on the ecosystem services provided by major habitat types (including wetlands) in the Hong Kong Special Administration Region.

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
☑ A=Yes

11.2 Additional information
› The State Council announced the Decisions on Winning the Battle against Poverty on November 29th, 2015. The Government called for reducing poverty by using environmental protection as a policy measure. It was requested that the Government should provide the disprivileged regions with more resources when planning large-scale programmes on wetland conservation and restoration as well as on improvement of water quality, so that a large proportion of poor people may be engaged into and benefit from environment protection.
It was also officially decided that the low-income regions might as well put more efforts to protect and restore environment to gain more funds transferred from the central government as an eco-compensation subsidy for major ecological functional zones.
The establishment of a national park system in China will create new opportunities for poor local communities to increase their incomes, including hiring them as contracted temporary rangers. In this way, they may be a beneficiary of China's eco-compensation initiative and of the natural forest protection programme (NFPP).
China will pilot a combined scheme for ecological subsidies at less developed regions through modification of the existing system for setting subsidy rates for protection of non-commercial forests and through introduction of a trans-boundary eco-compensation scheme.
Of the four key objectives identified in the Plan for Ensuring Drinking Water Safety in China's Cities, released by the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Ministry of Public Health, and the General Bureau of Environmental Protection (now promoted as the Ministry of Environmental Protection), there was one relevant to wetland conservation and management. It consisted of the following four sub-objectives: (a) to strengthen protection of the headwaters for drinking water supply while controlling water pollution there; (b) to categorize the conserved areas used as drinking water supply and make efforts to keep them from

degradation through conducting out a variety of projects on prevention and control of water pollution, on restoration of ecological conditions in the large lakes and on piloting control of non-point source pollution.
The Thirteenth Five-year Plan for Reform and Development of Water Resources, jointly publicized by the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Water Resources, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, outlined the following objectives: (a) to strengthen management and protection of freshwater and marine ecosystems through making greater efforts to protect and restore ecological conditions in the watersheds of major rivers; (b) to optimize water use needs at a basin scale; (c) to keep the volume of water retained in major rivers, lakes, ponds and estuary wetlands sufficient enough to maintain a functional wetland ecosystem, in particular in low water seasons. This was for the first time that integrated wetland conservation and protection into a national plan for water resources.

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
☑ A=Yes

11.3 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names
› Since 2014 the central government has allocated subsidies for forestry to support wetland-related projects, indicating China recognition of the socio-economic values of wetlands. The subsidy funds from the central government is earmarked for projects on conversion of farmland to wetlands, for wetland eco-compensation pilot projects, and for rewarding local governments for their high performance in wetland conservation. In 2014, the central government appropriated RMB 1.594 billion for wetland conservation and restoration.

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
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names
› Wetlands play an important role in preserving and sustaining culture. The Guiding Principles for Making a Master Plan for National Wetland Parks, released in February 2010, provided that a plan for preservation of culture values of wetlands should be part of the plan for a wetland park. So far, preserving cultural values of wetlands has been covered either in a management plan or in a master plan for a Ramsar site in China.

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
☑ A=Yes

12.1 Additional information
› In 2016 the National Development and Reform Commission along with another seven central government agencies put out the Resilience Plan for Arable Land, Grassland, Rivers and Lakes (2016-2030). In the plan, it was clearly outlined that 100,000 hectares of wetlands were planned to be restored from previous farmland in the Ramsar sites in the regions of ecological importance (including the Songnen Plain, the Sanjiang Plain, the Yangtze River Economic Belt, and the Yellow River Delta Plain), wetland nature reserves, and national wetland parks.
As illustrated in the Thirteenth Five-year Implementation Plan for National Wetland Conservation, large-scale national programmes on wetland protection and restoration would be implemented at 168 wetlands all over China. According to the five-year strategic plan, the planned programmes were to be conducted at 30 Ramsar sites, 51 national wetland nature reserves, 22 provincial wetland nature reserves of national importance in terms of ecological functions and services, and 65 national wetland parks.
It is estimated that an acreage of 140,000 hectares of wetlands will be recovered in addition to creating 43,200 hectares of new wetlands. The achievement of this goal, as expected, will consolidate wetland conservation and management in China, further improving a sustainable provision of ecological goods and services of wetlands.
In terms of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, areas of degraded wetlands have been identified within the Wetland Buffer Area as stipulated in the Town Planning Guidelines as target areas for wetland restoration. Relevant planning controls are also imposed through zonings under the Outline Zoning Plan.

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

12.2 Additional information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Partially’, please indicate, if available the extent of wetlands restored
› During 2014 and 2015, there were over 110 projects completed in the Baiyangdian Lake, the Chaobai River, the Yongding River and etc, resulting in restoration of 50,000 hectares of degraded wetlands and conversion 18,000 hectares of farmland to wetlands.
The wetland mitigation area of 61 hectares located in Tin Shui Wai was a major wetland restoration/ rehabilitation project which has been successfully developed as the Hong Kong Wetland Park for conservation, education and tourism. Wetland restoration / enhancement work has also been implemented under approved development projects in Deep Bay.

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?
☑ A=Yes

13.1. Additional information

If ‘Yes’, please indicate the actions taken
› Ministry of Agriculture: replenishment of the population of aquatic organisms in natural water bodies and implementation of a fishing ban policy in specific areas of territorial seas, inland rivers, and lakes.
Ministry of Water Resources: The announcement of the Opinions on Speeding up Sustainable Management of Water Resources in 2013 kicked off a move towards better management of water resources, so as to help establish an eco-civilization in China. The official decision listed out 105 cities as pilot sites of the Water-Sustainable City.
Integrated measures for protection and restoration of aquatic ecosystems, such as increasing landscape connectivity of wetland networks, using treated wastewater from treatment plants according to their water quality for recycling as much as possible, maintenance dredging in rivers and lakes, consolidating and restoring of riverine, lacustrine and coastal areas, and protection of the conserved areas functioning as a water supply, will be taken to improve ecological conditions in water bodies. As mentioned above, protection and restoration of wetland ecosystems and critical habitat for wetland wildlife are a key component of the move, contributing to a significant increase in ecological value of wetlands.
With the guidance and help of the Ministry of Water Resources, forty national scenic areas and over 10 provincial scenic areas were established in wetlands. The efforts to create the connectivity between rivers and lakes helped keep environmental flows adequate enough in wetlands to retain primary ecological functions, improve ecological conditions and conserve biodiversity taking refuge in wetlands.
Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MoHURD): when preparing a development plan for a city or a town, any natural wetlands that are qualified for being managed as a conservation park may consider a designation of the national wetland park. Other documents, such as the Management Measures for the National-level Urban Wetland Parks and the Principles for Urban Wetland Parks Planning and Design were also released by MoHURD.

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
☑ A=Yes

13.2 Additional information
› Since the Environmental Impact Assessment Law of the People's Republic of China came into effect in 2002, the strategic assessment of environmental impacts on wetlands has become a compulsory practice for the Government at all levels stewarding wetlands.
The law and its revisions completed in 2016 and the Regulation on Environmental Impact Assessment during the Planning Process that came into effect on October 1, 2009, provided that any development plans that involve wetlands should prepare an environmental impact assessment and have it submitted to relevant environmental protection agencies for review. The regulations help see that development planning is made on the principle of leaving as much as natural wetlands undisturbed. An optimum alternative is to keep the ecological vulnerable areas intact as much as possible and to have the extent of any proposed development within the environmental carrying capacity of a target site.
Since the end of the twelfth five-year period, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has made it compulsory to assess environmental impacts on wetlands for new developments to be conducted in five regions (the Circum Bohai Gulf Region, the Economic Zone on the Western Side of the Taiwan Strait, the Coastal Rim around the Beibu Gulf Economic Region, the Chengdu-Chongqing Economic Zone, and the Upper and the Energy and Chemical Industry Development Zone locating in Middle Reaches of Neihe River), three areas (the

Jing-jin-ji Region, the Yangtze River Delta Region, the Pearl Delta Region), and key areas, where main industries to be landed, that are switching onto the fast track of development in China. Conclusions on review of an environmental impact assessment made by the Ministry of Environmental Protection cover constructive suggestions on how to restore, protect or create new wetlands offsite, so as to maintain biodiversity and ecological functions of wetlands.

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
☑ A=Yes

13.3 Additional information
› There are regulatory provisions on estimating environmental impacts on wetlands in the Special Management Measures for Environmental Impacts Imposed by Infrastructure Development on National Nature Reserves focusing on Protecting Aquatic Species, released by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2009 and the Notice Concerning Further Strengthening Assessment of Environmental Impacts on Aquatic Resources, jointly issued by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture in August, 2013.
The Ministry of Environmental Protection made revisions to the Environmental Impact Assessment Law of the People's Republic of China, approved by the People's Congress on October 28th, 2002.
The law and its revisions as well as the Management Regulation on Environmental Protection Involved in Construction Projects provide that any development activities that may impose threats to wetlands should perform an environmental impact assessment in compliance with applicable laws and regulations for relevant environmental protection authorities' review. When environmental impacts are analysed, wetlands should be treated as a key ecosystem for consideration. That is to say, it is mandatory to optimize project planning in line with the strictest measures for environmental protection, so as to reduce any potential, negative impacts on wetlands as close to zero as possible in order to maintain their ecological services at a sustainable level.

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
☑ A=Yes

15.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative
› In 2015 a Chinese delegation took attendance at the COP12 held in Uruguay, participating in multi-party talks and communication and hosting a side event on introduction of wetland conservation and achievements in China.
In the same year, another Chinese delegation made presence at the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Pre-COP12 Ramsar Regional Meeting for Asian Contracting Parties.

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}
☑ A=Yes

15.2 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s)
› In September 2017, the first foreign-aid training on wetland conservation, co-hosted by the Ministry of Commerce and the State Forestry Administration, was held in Hangzhou, China. The training, entitled Wetland Conservation and Management Workshop in Developing Countries, was a three-week learning program. Mr. Li Chunliang, Deputy Administrator of the State Forestry Administration of China and Dr. Branko Micevs, President of the Macedonian Ramsar Committee attended the training along with 26 trainees from 15 countries, including Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America.
The Hong Kong Wetland Park participates in the Wetland Link International – Asia network which aims to share experience in wetland management and conservation education with other wetland centres in Asia. It also provides guided visits to interested parties from mainland and overseas to share our experience in the management of the wetland park and wetland education centre. In addition, WWFHK regularly provides training programmes on wetland reserve management for wetland managers in the region.

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	☑ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☐ C=In Progress ☐ D=Planned
b) Sub national level	☐ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☐ C=In Progress ☑ D=Planned
c) Catchement/basin level	☐ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☑ C=In Progress ☐ D=Planned
d) Local/site level	☐ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☑ C=In Progress ☐ 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
› In 2015 the Ministry of Education released the Code of Ethics for Students in Primary and Middle Schools, encouraging the school to add environmental education to their curriculum. Schools should take a responsibility to help their students care about our environment and instruct them how to make their own contributions to making decisions and taking actions in pursuit of a sustainable development. The Code also states that schools are welcome to develop new environmental curriculum on wetlands and their cultural values according to available wetland resources on campus or in areas near their schools.
As a national move, China has integrated wetland conservation into the school curriculum, helping students learn the values of wetlands and the rationale for protecting and exploiting wetland resources in a sustainable manner through illustrating to students issues arising from conservation and use of wetlands.
The Ministry of Education promotes special environmental protection campaigns in line with its annual work plan for environmental education. The theme for the campaign for Junior Scientists was “Green-Go Recycling” in 2015 and “Life+: Be Greener” in 2017. The efforts helped China’s teenagers create their interest in environment and an eco-friendly lifestyle towards green living.
The State Forestry Administration has also promoted a wide variety of campaigns on special events, e.g. the World Wetlands Day. In 2014 China ran a national promotion campaign in an attempt to help keep “no net loss” of wetlands in the boundaries of redlines for wetland protection. The release of key survey findings from the second research on wetland resources in China also gave China a great chance to inform the public of wetlands. Premier Li Keqiang and Vice-Premier Wang Yang gave important instructions on wetland conservation after review of the survey results. Their concern will help strive for a tighter legal law framework and more funds for wetland protection.
During the period from 2014 to 2016, a series of activities were conducted, including launching a poster-based campaign entitled “Protect Wetland for Better Future” and having two television documentaries—“Green China—Wetlands” and “Wetlands in Guizhou—shot.
In 2016, nearly 1,200 participants from 72 countries all around the world attended the Tenth International Conference on Wetlands. 29 prominent national and international media gave their report on the event, including the Xinhua News Agency, the People’s Daily, and CCTV. Dr. Ania Grobicki, Deputy Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands concluded at the conference by remarking that “I am proud of China, which has made remarkable contributions to protecting and wisely using of wetlands in the world”.
China is on the way to be an eco-civilization society. One of the pillars of the national plan is to protect and use of mountains, wetlands, forests, farmland, and grasslands in an ecologically sustainable manner. To achieve this long-term goal, local governments and relevant sectors will not leave out components of the wetlands in their action plans.
At the watershed scale: China is piloting a cross-province eco-compensation system for big rivers and lakes. To facilitate the pilot, cross-boundary cooperation may be required in promoting watershed-focused environmental campaigns. Wetland-focused campaigns were also made during the annual gatherings of

several wetland conservation associations for the conservation networks of the Yangtze River, the Yellow River, and the Coastal Wetlands.
At the site-level: In terms of an individual wetland, in particular those designated as a protected area, its management authority generally views environmental education as a routine task in their annual work plan and has been keeping introduction of new initiatives to the public to get more support for wetland conservation. The Hong Kong Wetland Park implements the local wetland CEPA programmes for the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site of Hong Kong.

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
☑ E=Exact Number (centres)

› 49

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
☑ X=Unknown

16.2 Additional information

If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks
› Except for geographical constraints or otherwise reasons stipulated in management planning, a Ramsar site should have an education center in place to address the promotion needs as indicated in its master plan or management plan. So far, 32 Ramsar sites have built their environmental promotion and education centers in different forms or types.
Many other wetlands, such as wetland nature reserves and wetland parks, have museums, education centers, visitor centers (e.g. Hong Kong Wetland Park) operationalized.

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	☑ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☐ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?	☑ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☐ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned

16.3 Additional information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Partially’, please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved
› Since the survey results of the second census of China’s wetland resources were released in 2014, wetland conservation and management have received more concern from central government leaders. Premier Li Keqiang and Vice Premier Wang Yang gave important instructions on wetland conservation. Wetland conservation has gained more attention in China recently.
During the course of China moving towards an eco-civilization, central government agencies, responsible for making decisions for wetland conservation and management, have begun to give more cooperation and collaboration based on an overarching guiding principle, which is mountains, rivers, forests, farmland and lakes consist of an ecological community. Cooperation or collaboration across organizations is becoming popular.
Take the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). In conjunction with other central government bodies, MoA prepared in 2014 the Integrated Plan for Addressing Critical Issues Relating to Agricultural Environment (2014-2018), including proposed certain actions for conversion farmland to wetlands.
Eight government agencies co-released the Resilience Plan for National Arable Land, Grassland, Rivers and Lakes with specific objectives concerning wetland conservation and restoration. The eight bodies were the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Land and Resources, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Water Resources, the State Forestry Administration, and the State Administration of Grain. The State Forestry Administration prepared the chapter, entitled the Scheme for Conversion of Agricultural Land into Wetlands.
The Ministry of Agriculture announced the Thirteenth Five-year Plan for Agricultural Resources and Environmental Protection Programmes, which gave detailed guidance on protection of fishery resources, on

restoration of agricultural wetlands, and on stricter control and prevention of invasive alien species.
The way that national plans were prepared was also copied to similar efforts at the watershed scale. In 2015 the Committee of Population, Resources and Environment of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) developed a plan for protection of wetlands in the Yangtze River Development Zone based on key findings from a comprehensive survey there. Relevant central and sub-national government agencies, including the State Forestry Administration gave their inputs and review comments when developing the plan.
Applications for designation of a Ramsar site rely on full involvement and engagement of all relevant stakeholders. So does management of a Ramsar site. In China, all Ramsar sites will consult key stakeholders for their inputs when a work plan is to be prepared. And also, co-management in wetlands is also gaining more attention from local stakeholders.
Currently the WWFHK, for example, assists the management of the Mai Marshes Po Nature Reserve with funding support from the Hong Kong SAR Government. Management is overseen by the Mai Po Management Committee which comprises of Government representative, concerned NGOs and academics. Non-Government Organizations have been involved in partnership with fishermen and farmers to carry out conservation management of fishponds and wet agriculture fields which also serve as education/training activities.

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

☑ A=Yes

16.4 Additional information

If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP12; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has
› China established a National Committee for Implementing the Ramsar Convention in 2007. The Committee, chaired by the State Forestry Administration, consists of five agencies as co-chairs and ten member agencies. The co-chairs are: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the State Oceanic Administration.
The ten member agencies include the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Land and Resources and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development; the Ministry of Transport and the National Tourism Administration; and the Chinese Academy of Sciences and China Meteorological Administration.
Since the COP12, the Committee for Implementing the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands had the sixth annual gathering in 2015.

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

☑ Y=Not Relevant

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	☑ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☐ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned
b) other MEA national focal points	☑ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☐ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned
c) other ministries, departments and agencies	☑ A=Yes ☐ B=No ☐ C=Partially ☐ D=Planned

16.6 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please describe what mechanisms are in place
› As the designated Ramsar Administrative Authority of China, the State Forestry Administration attends the meetings for the Standing Committee of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. It also has the new resolutions, approved by the Committee, translated and shares them with relevant goveernment ministries, departments and agencies in a timely manner.

In terms of daily operations on management of Ramsar sites, the State Forestry Administration keeps in touch the Ramsar site management authorities by phone and email. Every Ramsar site management agency updates the State Forestry Administration about the ecological status of their Ramsar sites at least once a year, and provides real-time progress on special occasions, as stipulated in applicable administrative orders, policies, regulations, and laws.
The State Forestry Administration has organized ad-hoc trainings for employees of China's Ramsar sites in an attempt to improve their professional capacities for management of wetlands of international importance.
In addition to keeping in touch via official notes, phones, and emails, the State Forestry Administration many a time invited the designated focal points for other multi-lateral environmental agreements that China has ratified or their designated representatives to attend activities relating to implementing the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, such as celebrating the World Wetlands Day as well as holding training workshops on wetland conservation and management.

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}
☑ A=Yes

16.7 Additional information
› Since the COP10, the World Wetlands Day has become one of the special occasions for China to promote wetland conservation. A diverse of organizations at both the national and local levels, including government agencies, wetland management authorities, and non-governmental organizations for environmental protection, have launched a variety of promotion campaigns during that period.
In 2015, to celebrate the 19th World Wetlands Day, the State Forestry Administration and the People's Government of Zhejiang province co-hosted a large celebration at Xixi National Wetland Park.
That year the State Forestry Administration also made a poster-based exhibition of China's wetlands at the Wetland Museum of China. The exhibition aimed to deliver the audience the key message of "Protect Wetlands for Better Future". Many print media, such as China Green Times, China Economic Weekly, and Green Economy, also had special reports, column or themed papers on wetlands published. During the celebration season, over 10,000 handouts and postcards were distributed to promote wetland conservation.
The national theme for the World Wetlands Day 2016 was "Wetland and Future—Sustainability". The State Forestry Administration, CCTV (China Central Television), and the Forestry Bureau of Guizhou Province co-developed a special programme of "Wetlands in Guizhou" to celebrate the World Wetlands Day 2016. More than 10,000 posters and postcards were handed out on February 2, 2016.
Later in June of 2016, the State Forestry Administration worked together with CCTV had the programme "Wetlands Make China Greener" made, introducing to the public more than 30 wetlands in 21 provinces on the Channel of CCTV News. There was massive print media coverage of wetlands. The media included China Economic Weekly, China Green Times, Green Economy, and Wetlands. Those promotion efforts earned more attention from the society.

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}
☑ A=Yes

16.8 Additional information

If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this
› The State Forestry Administration launched a campaign to inform the public of the concept of redlines for wetland protection and the latest survey results of China's wetland resources in an attempt to address the urgency and significance of wetlands.
The State Forestry Administration and the University of Nanjing co-hosted the Tenth International Conference of Wetlands, which was a festival for sharing cutting-edge science and best practices for wetland conservation and management. It was the first time for Asia to hold such an event in the past forty years.
The Changshu Declaration, passed in the conference, helped the world learn more about China's achievements in wetland conservation and enhanced knowledge exchange and cooperation among all countries present at the event. Dr. Ania Grobicki, Deputy Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands said that she was proud of China's remarkable achievements in conservation and sustainable use of wetlands on Earth.
Nearly 7,200 guests from 72 countries in the world attended the conference that consisted of 11 plenary sessions and 71 parallel sessions. 29 international and national media, including the Xinhua News, the China Daily, and CCTV, all gave coverage of the event.
In collaboration with other partners, the State Forestry Administration held annual meetings for the Yangtze River and the Yellow River Conservation Networks and had the Coastal Wetland Conservation Network established, marking the formation of a nationwide, watershed-based wetland conservation web in China. The watershed-based networks will help enhance cooperation and collaboration in and among basins in terms of wetland conservation and management.

To advance the role of China Wetland Conservation Association, the State Forestry Administration has carried out a series of activities to share knowledge of wetland conservation on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, including holding the Second Cross-Strait Symposium on Wetland Conservation.
Public education programmes were carried out by the Hong Kong Wetland Park to raise community awareness on the importance of wetlands.

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
☑ A=Yes

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
☑ B=No

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
☑ Z=Not Applicable

17.4 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only (‘donor countries’)]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii
☑ Z=Not Applicable

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}
☑ A=Yes

17.5 Additional information

If ‘Yes’, please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP12
› During 2015-2016, China received US $800 million of funds from the Asian Development Bank for six projects on wetland conservation. Those projects/programmes were Improvement of Environmental Conditions and Biological Protection in the Upper Reach of the Qingjiang River in Enshi (Hubei province), Environmental Protection and Integrated Use of the Dongjiang Lake in Bangzhou (Hunan province), Pilot Project for Improvement of Sinkhole Areas (Shandong province), Improvement and Protection of Environmental Conditions in the Hebiqi Basin (Henan province), Integrated Environmental Improvement in Town of Dongcheng (Qinghai province), and Flood Control and Prevention and Environmental Improvement in Kongmu Basin, City of Xinyu (Jiangxi province). Ten per cent of the investment, equivalent to US $80 million, was allocated to wetland conservation-related activities relating to wetland restoration and rehabilitation, to habitat protection and management in wetlands, to improvement of environmental conditions in wetlands, and to sustainable use of wetlands.
During the period from 2013 to 2018, the Global Environment Facility has been providing China with US $26 million to support the country’s efforts to consolidate its wetland protected area system.
Wetland agendas were firstly added to the U.S.-China Nature Conservation Protocol at the Sixth round of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue. By the end of 2016, the State Forestry Administration had twelve cooperative projects added to the annex of the Protocol. Hosting a U.S.-China Nature Conservation Seminar was one of them.
Australia-China Wetland Network Research Partnership is a joint project between the Collaborative Research Network (CRN) of Federation University Australia and the Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (NIGLAS). The project is to understand the impacts of climate change and human disturbances on ecology and hydrology of lake and river systems of both countries.

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

17.6 Additional information

If “Yes” please state the amounts, and for which activities
› During 2015 and 2016, the central government appropriated US $3.234 billion for wetland conservation, exclusive of the funds for construction projects. Detailed information is given in Part A of Section 2 in this report.

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
☑ A=Yes

18.1 Additional information
› In addition to keeping in touch via official notes, phones, and emails, the State Forestry Administration often invited the designated focal points for other multi-lateral environmental agreements that China has ratified or their designated representatives to attend activities relevant to implementing the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands when celebrating the World Wetlands Day or holding workshops on wetland conservation and management.

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
☑ A=Yes

18.2 Additional information
› The State Forestry Administration has been in a long partnership pursuant to wetland conservation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). From 2014 to now, the Programme named CBPF-Main Streams of Life (MSL): Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation, being implemented by the State Forestry Administration and co-executed by UNDP and FAO, is under implementation as planned. The program Enhancing the Management Effectiveness of the Wetland Network along Waterbird Migratory Routes in the East of China, jointly developed by the State Forestry Administration, the State Oceanic Administration, and UNDP, has made practical progress in funding application.

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).
☑ A=Yes

18.3 Additional information

If 'Yes' please name the agency (es) or IOP (s) and the type of assistance received
› The United Nations Development Programme is working with the State Forestry Administration on a GEF5 programme and a would-be GEF6 project with the aim of enhancing the management effectiveness of China's inland and coastal wetlands through promotion of sustainable use of wetland resources.
The United Nations Environment Programme released in 2014 the Chongming Eco-Island Assessment Report, concluding that the concept of a green economy is the kernel of economic development when building an environmental-friendly society. The model of Chongming can be recognized as an innovative paradigm that demonstrates an eco-friendly development in a natural island next to a populous metropolis.
Wetlands International-China and the Wetlands Conservation Centre of the State Forestry Administration teamed up to get the Yellow River Conservation Network established and jointly held annual meetings. The former has also contributed to a variety of trainings on wetlands.
WWF, in partnership with the State Forestry Administration and local forestry bureaus, held annual meetings for the Yangtze River Conservation Network. The World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong (WWFHK) assists in the habitat management of the Mai Po Nature Reserve which is part of the Ramsar Site, with financial support from the Government. It also carries out education programmes for schools and public.
Birdlife International and the State Forestry Administration have made joint efforts to save from extinct the Chinese crested tern (Sterna bernsteini), a critically endangered water bird. In addition, the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (partner of BirdLife International), assists in the implementation of Waterbird Monitoring Programme in the Deep Bay area.
The State Forestry Administration and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust entered into a cooperative MOU. The latter in 2016 made a presence at the Sixth IUCN World Conservation Congress.

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}
☑ C=Partially

18.4 Additional information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Partially’, please indicate the networks and wetlands involved
› China is a member of the East Asia-Australasian Flyway Partnership. The flyways in the partnership covers 19 bird zones, including Chongming-dongtan (Shanghai municipality), Fung Lok Wai in Deep Bay of Hongkong, Shuangtai Estuary (Liaoning province), Yancheng (Jiangsu province), the Yellow River Delta (Shandong province), Poyang Lake (Jiangxi province), Xingkai Lake (Heilongjiang province), Sanjiang Plain (Heilongjiang province), the Yalu River Estauary and Coastal Wetland (Jilin province), Dalai Lake (Inner Mongolia province), Chaohai Lake (Guizhou province), Shengjinhu (Anhui province), Xianghai Lake (Jilin province), Zhalong (Helongjiang province), Anqing Yanjiang Wetlands (Anhui province), Dashanbao (Yunnan province), Hengshui Lake (Hebei province), South Harbor Wetland (Hebei province), and Nanjishan (Jiangxi province).
After the establishment of the Yangtze River Wetlands Conservation Network, another two networks came into existence respectively covering the Yellow River and the Coastal regions of China during the period from 2014 to 2016.
The wetlands network across the Yangtze River has 175 members from 12 provinces in China. In 2016, the Yellow River Wetlands Conservation Network was a partnership of 22 nature reserves and wetland parks, widely located in Shanxi, Shaanxi, Shandong and Ningxia provinces.
The Coastal Wetlands Conservation Network, launched in June 2015, will act as a platform to share knowledge and resources for wetland conservation in 11 terrestrial provinces stretching along the mainland coastlines of China from Liaoning in the north to Hainan in the south.
The Middle Yangtze River Wetlands Conservation Alliance was established in 2016. Forestry agencies and city park management authorities in eight cities, including Wuhan, Nanchang, Changsha, Hefei, Jiujiang, Yueyang, Yichang, and Anqing, were united to address feasible strategies for wetland conservation.
The Hong Kong Wetland Park currently has a twinning arrangement with the London Wetland Centre in the UK and the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve in Singapore. The Park also actively participates in the Wetland Link International (WLI) network for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands.

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

☑ A=Yes

18.5 Additional information

› On July 11th, 2016 the State Forestry Administration released a book series entitled Wetlands in China and the Electronic Atlas of Wetland Resources in China. It took 550 compilers three years to prepare. The series has 32 volumes with 12 million words and the Atlas consists of over 2,500 pieces of maps of wetlands. The publications gave the public a full exposure of the key findings and conclusions from the second survey of wetland resources in China, completed in 2013.
The website of Wetlands in China, maintained by the Wetlands Conservation Centre of the State Forestry Administration is one of the main sources for the public to understand China’s wetland conservation and management. It, updated once in 2016, now gets nearly 100 million page views a year.
Many wetland management authorities have their own websites for the public to get more detailed information about the wetland sites for which they are responsible. The profile of Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, for example, can be available online at www.afcd.gov.hk.
Some non-governmental organizations, such as Wetlands International-China, the Paulson Institute, WWF also give a detailed introduction to their wetland projects on their websites.
Some magazines or periodicals on wetlands are also a good source for Chinese and international audience to get relevant information about wetlands in China. The most popular ones include Wetlands, a bi-monthly journal published by Wetlands International-China, Wetland Management and Wetland Science, a scientific research journal by the Chinese Academy of Forestry Sciences, and the Science of Wetlands by the Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

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

☑ A=Yes

18.6 Additional Information

› The latest information about all 49 Ramsar sites in China is available on the website of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

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

☑ A=Yes

18.7 Additional information

› All transboundary wetland systems were identified during the second survey of China’s wetland resources that was completely completed in 2013, including the intertidal wetland shared by the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Rasmar Site and the Futian National Nature Reserve in Shenzhen.

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
☑ C=Partially

18.8 Additional information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Partially’, please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place
› More cooperation on wetland conservation and management in transboundary wetlands has taken the stage. China and South Korean teamed up to push for nomination of coastal wetlands in the Yellow Sea as a World Heritage candidate site. Four wetlands along the coastlines of the Bohai Gulf and the Yellow Sea were part of the Tentative List of China’s World Heritage List.
Certain cooperation of different kinds were also conducted in the Amur Basin Protected Area Network, the Zhenbao Island, Xingkai Lake in Heilongjiang and the Wusuli River. Sanjiang, a Ramsar site has a cooperative agreement with its neighbouring counterpart in Russia.
The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of HKSAR Government maintains close liaison and information exchange with the counterparts in Futian National Nature Reserve in Shenzhen.

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

18.9 Additional information
› China has 19 bird zones that belong to the East Asia-Australasian Flyway Partnership. Detailed information is as indicated in the additional information column for Question 18.4.

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
☑ A=Yes

19.1 Additional information
› The Wetlands Office of the State Forestry Administration is responsible for developing career development plans in line with its annual work plan, priorities for action, and identified training needs.
The estimated cost for career development is also covered in the annual budget for the agency. In 2014 eight professional trainings were given to 596 wetland practitioners and managers.
Considering the fact that wetland conservation needs strong support of decision-makers, some special trainings have also been designed for local government officials. In 2014 the Organization Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China held a training for mayors on protection of wetland ecosystems at a mayor training session. Mr. Zhao Shucong, Director of the State Forestry Administration in 2014, attended the training and gave a keynote speech.

19.2 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes?
☑ A=Yes

19.2 Additional information

If you answer yes to the above please provide information on which mechanisms and materials
› As a national move, the Ministry of Education has integrated wetland conservation into national curriculum. Chinese students can thus get to know the issues imposed by a variety of development activities and by use of wetlands, further learning the values of wetlands and the necessity to protect wetland resources through using them in a sustainable manner.
The Hong Kong Wetland Park is included as a teaching resource in the curriculum of Teacher Education Programmes for General Studies for Primary Schools. For more information, see: http://www.edb.gov.hk/tc/curriculum-development/cross-kla-studies/gs-primary/teacher-edu-program/hong-kong-wetland-park-201201029.html

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
☑ G=More than (opportunities)

› 3000

19.3 Additional information

including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training
› With the assistance of the State Forestry Administration, the Organization Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China held the first training, tailored for majors from cities and counties, on protection of wetland ecosystems with the aim of helping them to protect, manage and use of wetlands in a more scientific manner.
The State Forestry Administration also had many other trainings when having implemented other projects, including wetland protection projects, wetland subsidy projects, and watershed-based wetland management projects. By the end of 2016, nearly 3,000 wetland employees were trained altogether.
Numerous trainings on wetland management were also conducted at individual wetland protected areas. The Mai Po Nature Reserve, for instance, hosted wetland management training courses by WWFHK for wetland managers from the mainland China and overseas.

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

☑ A=Yes

19.4 Additional information

If ‘Yes’, please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring
› The national report for the COP12 and the earlier COPs have information about all aspects of wetland protection and management. Those data can be used as a baseline measurement of wetland work for the future, further helping the designated Ramsar Administrative Authority of China track their progress over time. Review of the national reports also allows the State Forestry Administration as the designated Ramsar Administrative Authority of China to identify priorities and challenges for implementing the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. This will no doubt help push the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in line with China’s national priorities for socio-economic development.

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.

China

Anhui Shengjin Lake National Nature Reserve (2248)

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ A=Yes

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.
☑ A=Yes

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

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

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

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

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