



**NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**National Reports to be submitted to the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2018**

The purpose of this Microsoft Word form is to help Contracting Parties to collect data for the National Report. However, the data collected through this form must be transferred to the online National Reporting system at <https://reports.ramsar.org> or send the Word form by email ([nationalreports@ramsar.org](mailto:nationalreports@ramsar.org)) by 21 January 2018 for the official submission of the National Report. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice ([nationalreports@ramsar.org](mailto:nationalreports@ramsar.org)).

Please note that for Contracting Parties wishing to provide information in the Online Reporting System on national targets (Section 4 optional) of the National Report Format or on the Word Form the deadline is 30 November 2016.

## **Ramsar COP13 National Report Format (NRF)**

### **Background information**

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

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

8. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention and are made publicly available on the Convention's website.
9. There are seven main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
  - i) provide data and information on how, and to what extent, the Convention is being implemented
  - ii) provide tools for countries for their national planning
  - iii) capture lessons and experience to help Parties plan future action;

- iv) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
  - v) provide a means for Parties to account for their commitments under the Convention;
  - vi) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementing the Convention, and to plan its future priorities; and
  - vii) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
10. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention".
11. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, the Ramsar Secretariat holds in a database all the information it has received and verified. The COP13 reports will be in an online National Reporting system.
12. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
- i) providing an opportunity to compile and analyze information that contracting parties can use to inform their national planning and programming.
  - ii) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global, national and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the COP as a series of Information Papers, including:
    - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level;
    - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance); and
    - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region;
  - iii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP.
  - iv) providing the source data for time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2010); and
  - v) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP used the COP10 NRF indicators extensively in 2009 to prepare contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems for consideration by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3). Similar use of COP12 NRF indicators is anticipated for the CBD's next such in-depth review.

## The structure of the COP13 National Report Format

13. The COP13 National Report Format (NRF) is in five sections:

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

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

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

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

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

The planning of national targets offers, for each of them, the possibility of indicating the *national priority* for that area of activity as well as the *level of resourcing available, or that could be made available during the triennium, for its implementation*. In addition, there are specific boxes to indicate the *National Targets* for implementation by 2018 and the *planned national activities* that are designed to deliver these targets.

Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 shows the synergies between CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Ramsar Targets. Therefore, the NRF provide an opportunity that Contracting Parties indicate as appropriate how the actions they undertake for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets according to paragraph 51 of Resolution XII.3.

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

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

**Important – please read this guidance section before starting to complete the National Report format**

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

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

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

17. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.

Fields with a pale green background  are free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, as it helps us understand Parties' progress and activity more fully, to prepare the best possible global and regional implementation reports to COP.

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

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

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

21. The Format is created as a form in Microsoft Word to collect the data. You will be able to enter replies and information in the yellow or green boxes.

For each of the 'indicator questions' in Section 3, a legend of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: 'A - Yes', 'B - No', 'C - Partially', 'D - In progress'. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies. Please indicate the relevant letter (A, B etc.) in the yellow field.

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

22. In Section 4 (Optional) for each target the planning of national targets section looks as follows (in the example of Target 8 on inventory):

### Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target:</b>	<input type="text"/>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>	<input type="text"/>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer

<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>	<i>[Example text]</i> To have comprehensive inventory of all wetlands by 2018
<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>	<i>[Example text]</i> To update the existing inventory so as to cover all the national territory, and to incorporate relevant information about wetlands, including digital information, when possible
<b>Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals</b>	<i>[Example text]</i> A comprehensive inventory of all wetlands
<b>Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018</b>	

The input has to be made only in the yellow boxes. For **PRIORITY** and **RESOURCING**, the coded answers are given in the right part of the table (always in *italics*). The answer chosen should be typed inside the yellow box at the left side of the coded options. **TARGETS** and **PLANNED ACTIVITIES** are text boxes; here, Contracting Parties are invited to provide more detailed information in the respective box on their National Targets for achievement in implementation by 2018 and the planned national activities that are designed to deliver these targets.

***Please note that only ONE coded option –the one that better represents the situation in the Contracting Party– should be chosen. Blanks will be coded in COP13 National Reports Database as “No answer”.***

23. The NRF should ideally be completed by the principal compiler in consultation with relevant colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party’s overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP12 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided. In the online system there will be also an option to allow consultation with others.
24. After each session, **remember to save the file**. A recommended filename structure is: COP13NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP13NRFSpain13January 2018.doc
25. After the NRF has been completed using the word version (offline), please enter the data in the NR online system at this link: <https://reports.ramsar.org> or send it by email ([nationalreports@ramsar.org](mailto:nationalreports@ramsar.org)) by January 21<sup>st</sup> 2018. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice at ([nationalreports@ramsar.org](mailto:nationalreports@ramsar.org)).
26. The completed NRF **must be accompanied by a letter that can be uploaded in the online system or send by email ([nationalreports@ramsar.org](mailto:nationalreports@ramsar.org)) in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party’s official submission of its COP13 National Report.**

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

# National report to Ramsar COP13

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## Section 1: Institutional Information

**Important note:** the responses below will be considered by the Ramsar Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points

**Name of Contracting Party:**

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### Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority:

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Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:

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Mailing address:

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Telephone/Fax:

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Email:

### Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title:

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Mailing address:

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Telephone/Fax:

---

Email:

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

Name and title:

---

Name of organisation:

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Mailing address:

---

Telephone/Fax:

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Email:

### Designated Government National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Programme on Communication, Education and Public Awareness

Name and title:

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Name of organisation:

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Mailing address:

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Telephone/Fax:

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Email:

### Designated Non-Government National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Programme on Communication, Education and Public Awareness

Name and title:

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Name of organisation:

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Mailing address:

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Telephone/Fax:

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Email:



## 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) designation of False Bay Nature Reserve and Bot - Kleinmond Estuarine System as Ramsar sites in 2015 and 2017, respectively.
- 2) development of national Ramsar targets in line with The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024
- 3) completion of the project on the “The investigation of selected Ramsar wetlands biodiversity status and tourism value in support of the Ramsar Convention information requirements”
- 4) declaration of the Lakenvlei Protected Environment (NEMPA), which acts as a buffer area for the Verloren Valei Nature Reserve Ramsar site.
- 5) declaration of the Sneeuwberg Protected Environment (NEMPA), which acts as a buffer area for the Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve Ramsar site.

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

- 1) Addressing issues at Orange River Mouth and Blesbokspruit Ramsar sites.
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

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

- 1) Development of the new version of the National Wetland Map that significantly improves the quality of information available and fills gaps in the coverage of the existing version
- 2) Designation of three new Ramsar sites
- 3) Development of an inventory of invasive alien species that currently impact or have potential to impact the ecological character of wetlands, and continued eradication of these species, as well as rehabilitation of degraded wetlands.
- 4) Removal of Blesbokspruit and Orange River Mouth Ramsar sites from the Montreux Record
- 5) Comprehensive Reserve Determinations and gazetting of Resource Quality Objectives for the rivers/water management units (legal steps for environmental flow provision for Ramsar wetlands)

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

No

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

Partnership between Parties and IOP partners is crucial in the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024

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)?

1) National focal points for these agreements should work closely with each other; national reporting under these agreements should also be harmonised at the international level

2) Improve the knowledge of potential climate change impacts on Ramsar sites, and develop adaptation and mitigation strategies.

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)?

Build the case for wetlands and Ramsar sites providing ecological infrastructure, and supporting livelihoods, and use such information to lobby for resources for these sites.

Comprehensive Reserve Determinations and Resource Quality Objectives for the rivers/water management units (legal steps for environmental flow provision for Ramsar wetlands) should be prioritised by Parties.

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

No

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

Department of Environmental Affairs  
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Department of Water and Sanitation  
Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs  
Agricultural Research Council  
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research  
South African National Parks  
South African National Biodiversity Institute  
Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism: Limpopo Provincial Government  
CapeNature  
Makuleke Communal Property Association  
Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife  
Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs: Free State Provincial Government  
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Gauteng Provincial Government  
Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency  
North West Parks and Tourism Board  
Water Research Commission  
City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality  
iSimangaliso Wetland Park  
BirdLife South Africa, Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas Programme and Policy & Advocacy Programme.

## 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.

COP13 REPORT		
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	
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant	
a)	National Policy or strategy for wetland management	A
b)	Poverty eradication strategies	X
c)	Water resource management and water efficiency plans	A
d)	Coastal and marine resource management plans	A
e)	Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan	A
f)	National forest programmes	A
g)	National policies or measures on agriculture	A
h)	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	A
i)	National policies on energy and mining	A
j)	National policies on tourism	X
k)	National policies on urban development	A
l)	National policies on infrastructure	A
m)	National policies on industry	A
n)	National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i	A
o)	National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management	A
p)	National policies on wastewater management and water quality	A

1.1 Additional information:

**Target 2.** *Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.*

COP13 REPORT	
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.	C
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

2.1 Additional information:

The quality and quantity of water available to and required by priority wetlands and other objectives related to the maintenance of ecological functions of significant wetlands has been assessed progressively since the proclamation of the National Water Act No. 36 of 1998, with the aim of completing a first phase of assessments nationally by 2020. The assessments were done as part of the implementation of Chapter 3 of the National Water Act which specifically deals with the protection of South Africa’s water resources and preventing pollution in the form of:

(i) Resource Directed Measures: Measures for water resources, including wetlands, consisting of the determination of Environmental Flow Requirements (EFR) for both quality and quantity), determining the management class for significant water resources and setting Resource Quality Objectives. Resource Quality Objectives are of particular importance as they set legal limits within which impacts must be controlled and are used to manage the water resource system in an integrated manner from source to sea (Basin and inter-basin level). Resource Quality Objectives are set at a strategic catchment level, Resource Unit level and at specific Ecological Water Requirement sites along the water resource (river) or for particular estuaries and wetlands.

(ii) Source Directed Measures: these pertain to the water use, conservation, control and prevention of pollution by setting specific standards and conditions for water use. This is typically achieved through the authorisation of water use (including any impacts that may change the characteristic of a wetland), where such authorisations must take into consideration the level of protection and limits of use for the particular water resource that has been set by Resource Directed Measures.

The quality and quantity of water available to maintain the ecological functioning of water resources which include rivers, estuaries, wetlands and ground water in the South African context, have been incorporated as part of various projects ranging from catchment planning (Reconciliation, pre-feasibility to feasibility phase), through to implementation, monitoring and auditing.

The provision of water to maintain the natural functioning of wetlands has been a progressive and incremental process from 1998 to date. The reason being that in this period, the development of supporting policies, strategies and technical methods took place. Considering the nature of these supporting tools which are technical and scientific in nature, the natural functioning will continue improving as current methods are tested and implemented hence the provision of environmental flows to all types of wetlands (7 types of wetlands have been categorised based on their hydro-geomorphic characteristics) and estuaries are still only partially achieved in South Africa. Consequently, various challenges still need to be addressed to secure improved future implementation for sustainable water allocation and management, ultimately striving towards the protection of South Africa’s water resources while using water for sustainable growth and development.

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)	C
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

## 2.2 Additional information:

The National Water Act recognises two rights to water, viz. (i) water required to provide for basic human needs (subsistence water use) and (ii) water required for the functioning of the ecology based on its quality, quantity, biota, instream and riparian vegetation. The main purpose of determining environmental flows is to define the Present Ecological State (PES) of the resource, comparing the present state to the reference (natural) condition and taking the water resources importance and conservation state into consideration as well as the resource's sensitivity to change. A management class with a configuration of Recommended Ecological Categories and their associated Environmental Flow Requirements (or Environmental Water Requirements as it's known in South Africa) is then determined. This process allows for management measures to be implemented to rehabilitate or mitigate impacts on a water resource to an improved state, or to at least maintain the present state if it is considered sustainable for future use.

The above provisions of the National Water Act also enable the protection of significant natural ecological infrastructure such as wetlands in order to ensure their hydrological, provisioning and cultural functions in the landscape are safeguarded, and to provide linkages between the various types of water resources from source to sea. These measurements have been conducted as part of various studies/programmes within South Africa. The main objective is to act proactively to prevent impacts, and/or reduce current impacts (accumulative impacts) by identifying priority wetlands to be set aside for protection and conservation. South Africa has, amongst others, developed catchment scale Water Resource Management and Reconciliation Plans with the aim to progressively implement Environmental Flow Requirements as part of the planning, water allocation, use, control and regulation cycles of integrated water resource management. The further aim of these studies is to implement measures to re-balance the water in the hydrological cycle by ensuring water for the ecology, and basic human needs on the one side is determined and implemented whilst also making water available for use to allow for economic growth on the other hand. This is typically achieved by implementing programmes such as water conservation and demand management, war on leaks, water for growth and development, Blue and Green drop, implementing climate change strategies and developing and implementing National Monitoring and Information Programmes.

Determining the Environmental Flow Requirements for wetlands as stated above provides the opportunity to improve their status through the implementation of catchment management activities via the Catchment Management Strategies where Catchment Management Agencies have been established, and other stewardship programmes such as the Natural Resources Management Programmes. The latter are spearheaded by the Programmes such as the Working for Water, Working for Wetlands, Working for Rivers, Working for Ecology, and other similar Programmes. The Department Environmental Affairs is working closely with other Departments such as the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Department of Water and Sanitation; Department of Cooperative Governance; and various conservation agencies.

These programmes on wetlands are prioritised through the Resource Directed Measures processes of the Department of Water and Sanitation, and in cooperation with other government and non-government programmes, and are worked into various projects for protection, rehabilitation and mitigation, monitoring and information management as well as into the design of further research opportunities.

Currently a new scientific field has emerged called hydropedology that can assess and quantify the contribution of water flow to wetlands through interflow (which is the lateral movement of water in the unsaturated zone of the soil profile). This enables a far better understanding of the flow driver to wetlands, specifically hillslope seepage wetlands that are primarily fed by interflow

and are disconnected from groundwater and surface water discharges. This is now becoming a standard requirement for water use authorisation assessments in South Africa.

Reserve assessments for waterbodies in Gouritz Water Management Area including the Wilderness Lakes, were completed in 2014-2015

2.3 Have Ramsar Sites improved the sustainability of water use in the context of ecosystem requirements?	A
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; O= No Change; X= Unknown

### 2.3 Additional information:

South Africa prioritises wetlands that have been designated as Ramsar sites by affording them high protection and conservation statuses under the National Water Act and other environmental legislation, resulting in seeking sustainable solutions to prevent pollution, change or deterioration in the status of health or the resource and limit/prevent development in these wetlands. It also obliges South Africa to report on the measures and resources allocated to protect the status of these areas as part of various national and international such as the Department of Water and Sanitation state of water resources (an annual report), the Sustainable Development Goals and as part of other international obligations. Estuaries are automatically afforded a higher weight as part of determining Environmental Flow Requirements required for estuaries declared as Ramsar sites or if the estuary is a conservation area.

In terms of transboundary agreements, the protection of water resources that have been designated as Ramsar sites has been elevated to a higher level, i.e. the Southern African Development Community (SADC) policy on sharing water resources stipulated that water to maintain the environmental flows must be released by all SADC countries sharing water resources.

South Africa is in the process of developing an Integrated Water Quality Management Policy and strategy that addresses the need to prevent pollution in water resources by managing the treatment of polluted water to be discharged into natural water resources. Further to this, the Department of Water and Sanitation is in the process developing a Wetland Policy. This policy will reinforce the department's commitment to the importance of managing and protecting wetlands and specifically addresses the need to ensure that the flow, water quality and geomorphological drivers on which Ramsar sites, depend are protected. The policy will also deal with a number of other issues ranging from the criteria and need to prioritise wetlands and include wetlands into basin, planning, the approach to be used regarding decision-making around the management of artificial wetlands and approach around wetlands that are being used by society for subsistence use.

The Department of Water and Sanitation has the mandate as far as the protection, conservation, and management (authorisation, control and regulation) of water resources are concerned. Of vital importance to wetland protection is awareness creation and capacity-building, especially on the role that wetlands play in the landscape and the goods and services it provides to communities. Through programmes such as natural resources management, in particular Working for Wetlands, the role of wetland management and rehabilitation emphasised. Such programmes also aid in job creation, skills development and enhancing community involvement, self-regulation, sourcing financial support from and establishing partnerships with the private sector for the collection of data and sharing of information.

Breaching policy in Wilderness is also adhered to as compromise for ecological requirements and flood prevention. The water quality monitoring for Blesbokspruit Ramsar site has also indicated that there is improvement in water quality.

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.)	C A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
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2.4 Additional information:

South Africa has developed guidelines to manage wetlands based on various Ramsar guidelines and by applying Integrated Environmental Management Principles (in line with Agenda 21 and SDG's). The latter is implemented in the form of Environmental Impact Assessments, Environmental Management Plans, and through the determination of an agreed upon objective for the water resources ecological state (which is provided in the form of an ecological category from A and D) where A is a natural system and D is a highly utilised system. As a matter of principle, water resources may not be used beyond sustainable limits (i.e. beyond a D category). These guidelines influence the level of protection required and hence provide information on the type and degree of developments allowed in and around wetlands.

Management classes that are determined based on Socio-Economic and Ecological considerations provide guidelines for the allocation of current and future water resources management in a river basin. Management classes are set by prioritising significant water resources and determining the required management class with the associated Environmental Flow Requirements and its Resource Quality Objectives. The latter requirements will be considered and written into water use authorisations in the form of water use conditions.

The delineation guidelines for wetlands, amongst others, guide the acceptable position of a development in relation to wetland or estuary, thus they trigger the need for applying for a water use authorisation in line with the legislative requirements. Water use authorisation guidelines have also been produced to guide the use in providing the relevant information needed to assess applications for water use. Standard Operational Procedures have also been developed as guidelines to ensure compliance to regulation specifications and monitoring and to guide reporting.

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.)

C

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

2.5 Additional information:

THE South African Department of Water and Sanitation, as custodian of water resources, is responsible for the formulation and implementation of policy and strategy that is required to govern the water sector. This ensures an integrated approach to sustainable and equitable use of water by protecting the quality and quantity for the benefit of all users.

Water for Environmental Flows and for Basic Human Needs has been written into the National Water Act as the only two rights to water, hence in terms of the management of wetlands, the National Water Act promotes and demonstrates good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands. This is done by managing and controlling the activities that would impact the wetlands negatively. Further to this, water use activities in Ramsar wetlands and protected or highly vulnerable systems are being controlled, and authorisation for use from these wetlands are normally not recommended. Alternative options are recommended instead. In cases where use of water in and around a wetland is authorised, it will be subject to strict management conditions. These conditions will have to be implemented and reflected in dedicated monitoring programme to ensure the maintenance of the water resources desired, ecological state or to improve it via rehabilitation / mitigation measures.

The Department is also mandated to implement national monitoring programmes on priority water resources, of which Ramsar sites are included, and they are also incorporated in water resource management plans. Guidelines, legislation and assessment tools have been developed to incorporate wetland management into the whole life cycle of Integrated Water Resource Management in South Africa.

Of significance is the development of a Wetland Policy (which is currently underway) which reinforces the Department’s acknowledgement of the importance of wetlands. It states the fundamental norms, rules and values for wetland management by the Department, and standardises decision-making. This will be the first policy of its kind for the Department, and most stakeholders’ inputs into the policy are essential.

Various useful guidelines on wetland related management have also been produced through the Water Research Commission (WRC), of which a number of key guidelines have been referenced in the recently gazetted Water Use Authorisation Regulations which compel applicants to use these tools to standardise assessments (this includes the wetland buffer determination tool and the wetland offset guidelines).

<p>2.6 How many household/municipalities are linked to sewage system? SDG Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>10,7 million households</p> <p>E=#</p> <p>household/municipalities;</p> <p>F= Less than #;</p> <p>G=More than #;</p> <p>X= Unknown;</p> <p>Y= Not Relevant</p>
<p>2.6 Additional information:</p>	

2.7 What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country? SDG Target 6.3.1.	62%
	E=# percent; F= Less than # percent; G= More Than # percent; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.7 Additional information:	

2.8 What is the percentage of users of septic tank/pit latrine? SDG Target 6.3.1.	29%
	E=# percent; F=Less Than # percent; G= More Than # percent; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.8 Additional information:	

2.9 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? SDG Target 6.3.1.	A
	A= Yes, B= No; C= Partially, D=,Planned X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.9 Additional information:	

2.10 How do the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology perform? SDG Target 6.3.1.	C
	A=Good; C=Functioning; B=Not Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown Y= Not Relevant
2.10 Additional information:	
<p>These types of systems are found mostly in rural areas. However, as you move closer to urban centres, there is a combination of Activated sludge process and Biofilter process. ABOUT 38% (368 Plants) of treatment plants in South Africa are ponds/lagoons.</p>	

<p>2.11 How many centralised wastewater treatment plants exist at national level? SDG Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>963</p> <p>E= # plants; F= Less than #; G=More than #; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
<p>2.11 Additional information:</p> <p>The number of plants mentioned above, are those owned by municipalities (local authorities), government departments (Department of Public Works and Department of Environmental Affairs) and privately owned.</p>	

<p>2.12 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants? SDG Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>C</p> <p>A=Good; C=Functioning; B=Not Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
<p>2.12 Additional information:</p> <p>Majority of plants are functioning, however there remains challenges with issues pertaining to Operations and Maintenance due to ageing infrastructure but in certain instances the receiving flows are over the design capacity of some of these plants.</p>	

<p>2.13 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is? SDG Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Good; C=Functioning; B=Not Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
<p>2.13 Additional information:</p>	

<p>2.14 Is there a wastewater reuse system? SDG Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>2.14 Additional information:</p> <p>The water re-use schemes in <b>Beaufort-West</b> (direct re-use) and <b>George</b> (indirect re-use), which were also built as a result of the 2009-11 drought, are running full time and supplies good quality water to the inhabitants. The reuse or reclamation of wastewater not only improves the sustainability of water resources, but is strategically important as it improves the security of</p>	

supply through the diversification of water resources. Wastewater is available throughout the year and the supply is consistent.

The **Durban Wastewater Recycling (DWR) Plant** treats domestic sewage to near potable standards for industrial use. The plant has the capacity to treat approximately 40 MI/day of wastewater. The reclamation plan is run and maintained by Veolia Water as a Water Service Provider on behalf of EtheKwini Metropolitan Municipality.

The **Fraser Waste Water Treatment Works** capacity is 12 Mega litres a day, the current capacity of recycling plant is 1,5 megalitres a day with a maximum of 6 megalitres a day. This is a partnership between Ilembe District Municipality and multinational company Sembcorp-Siza Water.

2.15 What Is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system? SDG Target 6.3.1.	T and U
	R=Agriculture; S=Landscape; T=Industrial; U=Drinking; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

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

Comments in 2.14 above applicable

**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}

COP13 REPORT	
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	<b>A</b>
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
3.1 Additional information:	

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: a) Ramsar Sites	A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
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b) Wetlands in general	a) B b) A
<p>3.2 Additional information: There have been positive examples of wetland stewardship by forestry companies, where important wetland sites on land owned by these companies have been accorded formal protected status under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003, along with the commitment to manage these sites.</p>	

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	<b>A</b> A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>3.3 Additional information: Land owners and local communities are encouraged to maintain intact ecosystems, restore the natural environments of degraded land, and use natural resources sustainably for tax rebates. In this way, there is recognition that landowners and communities face opportunity costs in foregoing certain economic activities to preserve and restore natural environments and that compensation is necessary to make these costs acceptable, particularly for poor people.</p> <p>In addition, through the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme, priority biodiversity on land outside of state-owned protected areas is being secured, i.e. on privately/communally owned land where the landowner/user is willing to enter into an agreement. The biodiversity on this land is secured through a biodiversity stewardship agreement and incentives may be provided to the owner/user to enable this to occur. Biodiversity stewardship guidelines have been developed.</p>	

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	<b>B</b> A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
3.4 Additional information:	

**Target 4.** *Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.*

<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
4.1 Does your country have a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i	<b>A</b> A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

#### 4.1 Additional information:

South Africa has embarked on the process of developing a national inventory list of invasive species occurring in SA Ramsar wetlands however several aquatic weeds such as red water fern (*Azolla filiculoides*), water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*), water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) and Kariba weed (*Salvinia molesta*) are the most prominent ones.

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**

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

#### 4.2 Additional information:

In South Africa Management Authorities of all Protected Areas and of Organs of State, including municipalities, are obliged in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004) and its Regulations (Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, 2014):

- to prevent the unauthorized introduction and spread of alien species and invasive species to ecosystems and habitats where they do not naturally occur;
- to manage and control alien species and invasive species to prevent or minimize harm to the environment and to biodiversity in particular;
- to eradicate alien species and invasive species from ecosystems and habitats where they may harm such ecosystems or habitats; and
- to ensure that environmental assessments for purposes of permits in terms of the Genetically Modified Organisms Act, 1997, are conducted in appropriate cases in accordance with Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

Furthermore, Section 76 of the Act requires that all Protected Area Management Authorities and all other "Organs of State in all spheres of government", including all municipalities, draw up an "Invasive Species Monitoring, Control and Eradication Plan for land under their control". These plans have to cover information on:

- a) a detailed list and description of any listed invasive species occurring on the relevant land;
- b) a description of the parts of that land that are infested with such listed invasive species;
- c) an assessment of the extent of such infestation;
- d) a status report on the efficacy of previous control and eradication measures;
- e) the current measures to monitor, control and eradicate such invasive species; and
- f) measurable indicators of progress and success, and indications of when the control plan is to be completed.

4.3 How many invasive species are being controlled through management actions?	E= # species; F=Less than #; G=More than #; C=Partially; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
<p>4.3 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):</p> <p>The Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, 2014 listed 556 invasive species in which 379 terrestrial and fresh water plant species, 4 marine plant species, 41 mammal species, 24 bird species, reptiles species, 7 amphibians, 15 fresh water fish species, 23 terrestrial vertebrate species, 9 fresh water invertebrate species, 17 marine invertebrate species and 7 microbial species.</p> <p>The regulation further categorise the listed alien and invasive species into four categories and list 69 species which must be controlled and wherever possible, removed and no trade or planting is allowed. In addition species management plan must be developed. The list of these species contains invasive species that occur in the wetlands.</p> <p>BirdLife South Africa has also undertaken a project at the headwater of the Verlorenvlei Ramsar site to eradicate six ha of alien invasive tree species.</p>	

4.4 Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>4.4 Additional information:</p> <p>South Africa has developed a Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool which integrates invasive species control programmes.</p> <p>Kraaij, T., Baard, J.A., Rikhotso, D.R., Cole, N.S. &amp; Van Wilgen, B.W., 2017, 'Assessing the effectiveness of invasive alien plant management in a large fynbos protected area', <i>Bothalia</i> 47(2), a2105. <a href="https://doi.org/10.4102/abc.v47i2.2105">https://doi.org/10.4102/abc.v47i2.2105</a></p> <p>BrianW. vanWilgen Jennifer M. Fil, Johan Baard, Chad Cheney, Aurelia T. Forsyth, Tineke Kraaij. 2016. Historical costs and projected future scenarios for the management of invasive alien plants in protected areas in the Cape Floristic Region. <i>Biological Conservation</i> 200 168–177</p>	

## 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.}*



<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
5.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?</i> {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	<b>No</b>
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
5.1 Additional information:	
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	<b>No</b>
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
5.2 Additional information:	
5.3 How many Ramsar Sites have an effective, implemented management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	<b>23</b>
	E= # sites; F=Less than #; G=More than #; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.4 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i	<b>23</b>
	E= # sites; F=Less than #; G=More than #; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.5 For how many Ramsar Sites is effective management planning currently being implemented (outside of formal management plans)? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	<b>23</b>
	E= # sites; F=Less than #; G=More than #; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.3 – 5.5 Additional information:	
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	<b>A</b>
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

5.6 Additional information:

A new Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT) has also been developed in line with Resolution XII.15 (Evaluation of the management and conservation effectiveness of Ramsar Sites) has just been developed and will be implemented soon

In addition, all Ramsar sites (except Turtle Beaches/Coral Reefs Of Tongaland) would have been included as the assessments of Important Bird and Biodiversity areas by BirdLife South Africa between 2012 and 2014. These assessments include scoring and describing threats, state and actions at these sites.

<p>5.7 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.4} {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>E= # sites; F=Less than #; G=More than #; C= Partially; X=Unknown, Y=Not Relevant;</p>
<p>5.7 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):</p> <p>Makuleke Wetlands (Joint Management Board which comprises representatives from Makuleke Communal Property Associattion, and South African National Parks);</p> <p><u>Management of estuarine ecosystems</u></p> <p>All Ramsar sites which are estuaries or part thereof have a cross-sectoral management body comprising stakeholders involved in their management. These are Orange River Mouth, De Hoop Vlei, De Mond (Heuningnes Estuary), Verlorenvlei, Kosi Bay, Lake Sibaya, St. Lucia System, Turtle Beaches/Coral Reefs of Tongaland, and Langebaan</p>	

<p>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</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>E=# sites; F=Less than #; G=More than; C= Partially #; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>5.8 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):</p>	

<p>5.9 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Sites</p>
<p>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):</p> <p><a href="#">Refer to 5.6.</a></p>	

**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 to Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i
7.1	Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):  Development of a mechanism for implementing Article 3.2 is also one of the immediate priorities.  BirdLife South Africa is also actively working at Verlorenvlei and Bot - Kleinmond Estuarine System Ramsar sites to

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	<b>Y</b> A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Cases; O=No Negative Change
7.2	Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):  A report for Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve is outstanding and will be submitted in due course.	

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	<b>Y</b> A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
7.3	Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):  South Africa has two Ramsar sites on the Montreux Record, viz. Blesbokspruit and Orange River Mouth. A process to remove them from the Montreux Record will be initiated soon, including requesting the Ramsar Advisory Mission.	

### 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

<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
8.1 Does your country have a complete National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	<u>A</u> A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned
8.1 Additional information: National Wetland Map version 4 (2011) represents the current National Wetland Inventory. This map informed the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas project. This map is curated by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). A new version is being developed (version5) scheduled for completion in Jan 2018.	
8.2 Has your country updated a National Wetland Inventory in the last decade?	<u>C</u> A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; C1= Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
8.2 Additional information: National Wetland Map 5 is currently being finalised and will be a part of a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory to be published in early 2018 (SANBI- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) joint project).	
8.3 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	<u>A</u> A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
8.3 Additional information: The National Wetland Map is maintained by SANBI and the National Wetland Inventory is being developed (jointly by SANBI and CSIR) and will be maintained in future by SANBI.	
8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	<u>A</u> A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
8.4 Additional information: The National Wetland Map (and the National Wetland Inventory when finalised) will be made publically available on <a href="http://bgis.sanbi.org">http://bgis.sanbi.org</a>	

<p>8.5 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed during the last triennium? {1.1.3}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please describe on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green 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).</p> <p>* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>N=Status Deteriorated; O=No Change; P=Status Improved</p> <p>a) Planned b) Planned</p>
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8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b):  
This assessment of condition is currently underway – no current information on trends in condition is available. Data will be available in mid to late 2018 as part of the National Biodiversity Assessment 2018.

<p>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</p>	<p>D</p> <p>E= # Km<sup>2</sup> ; F=Less than #; G=More than #; A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
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8.6 Additional information: If the information is available please indicate the % of change in the extent of wetlands over the last three years.

This information is being calculated as part of the National Biodiversity Assessment initial data will be available in early 2018. Previous estimates based on NFEPA and NWM4 are contained in the NBA 2011 Freshwater Technical Report (Nel and Driver 2011); available on the platform <http://bgis.sanbi.org>

**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.}.*

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<p>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)</p>	<p>C</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned</p>

9.1 Additional information:

The development of a Wetland Policy is currently underway.

Although South Africa has in the past 20 years developed a much improved understanding of wetlands and their management requirements, there is still much that needs to be done in this field. In order to further improve the way in which wetlands are managed, the policy's objective is that a strategy will be developed once the policy has been completed, which will enable the implementation of the policy principles that have been proposed.

The Department of Water and Sanitation has also signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Environmental Affairs. The MOA aims to ensure the implementation of resource management functions that relate to watershed services as per the water resource strategies. One of the objectives of the MOA is the restoration of landscapes such as wetlands. The wetland policy and the implementation of the MOA with various conservation agencies, NGOs, local, provincial and national government aims to, amongst others, create awareness on wetland management and to provide a platform to obtain inputs and recommendations from the wetland sector regarding the various aspects of wetland management that needs improvement.

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

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

9.2 Additional information:

The National Water Act is in the process of being amended to address various challenges observed and reported in relation to implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management over the last two decades so as to give effect to the National Water Resources Strategy. The National Water Resource Strategy is the implementation strategy that gives effect to the National Water Act. Chapter 5 of the National Water Resource Strategy and Chapter 3 of the National Water Act refer to management and protection of water resources.

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

D  
A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned

9.3 Additional information:

Although wetlands are treated as such to some degree, this can be strengthened through policy development and various stewardship programmes. Water resources are treated as an integrated system. High priority strategic water areas have been identified that are crucial for water supply hence provides the opportunity for wetlands to be protected as priority water resources. Wetlands are also considered as recharge "factories" for groundwater and landscape processes. They are also considered as important refuge areas in times of drought and provide links for migratory corridors. Wetlands are treated as sinks in areas downstream from industrial and waste water treatment works, hence their ecological infrastructure function is of significance in integrated water resources management from source to the sea on a catchment scale.

Wetland Catchment Forums have been established in all nine provinces of South Africa to assist with governance and provide guidelines and support for wetland management at a local level.

A

<p>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}</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned</p>
<p>9.4 Additional information:</p> <p>CEPAs in South Africa have been relatively well established and has improved significantly since the various Environmental Acts and the National Water Act came into effect in a998. CEPAs have been implemented in various forms <i>inter alia</i>, through National Annual Wetland Conferences, dedicated wetland research by various government departments and agencies (Water Research Commission, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research), tertiary institutions, Wildlife &amp; Environment Society of South Africa, World Wide Fund for Nature; and the establishment of wetland forums and the introduction of internship programmes. Further to this is the inclusion of wetland management into specific tertiary curriculums as well as internal training by the relevant government departments which have a mandate for wetland management and protection.</p> <p>The South African Wetland Society, established in 2012 is also involved in a number of activities pertaining to CEPA. One of their specific objectives is to support wetland awareness education and professional accreditation. Specific stewardship programmes such as Working for Wetlands, Working for Water, Working for Ecosystems, have a very specific education factor built in them with the aim of upliftment, skills development and poverty eradication.</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>C A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>9.5 Additional information:</p> <p>Yes, South Africa’s National Climate Change Response Policy (NCCRP) recognises ecosystem-based adaptation as one of the key response measures to help the society to adapt to climate change and also encourages for conservation, rehabilitation and restoration of natural ecosystems such as wetlands and mangroves. These ecosystem have the ability to reduce the impacts of climate change. Furthermore, South Africa has also developed a Strategic Framework and Overarching Implementation Plan for Ecosystem-based adaptation (also referred to as the ecosystem-based adaptation Strategy), as well as Guidelines for identification and implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation which are also applicable to wetlands.</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>

9.6 Additional information:

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has a Conservation of Agriculture Resources Act, 43 of 1983 that regulates the use and management of wetlands on farms. The norms and standards of the regulations regarding the use of wetlands guide all activities and protection of wetlands on the farms and necessary authorisations to use wetlands. The department has LandCare programme which is a community based and government support initiative underpinned by the goal of optimizing productivity and sustainable use of natural resources. The focus of LandCare is on VeldCare, SoilCare , WaterCare , JuniorCare and Conservation Agriculture. The programme is being implemented in 9 provinces. The related projects on water Care focuses on the rehabilitation of degraded wetlands, clearing of alien and invasive plants in wetlands, upscaling of water harvesting techniques, soil erosion embankments, desiltation etc.

<p>9.7 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) agriculture-wetland interactions</li> <li>b) climate change</li> <li>c) valuation of ecosystem services</li> </ul> <p>{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned</p> <p>a) A b) A c) A</p>
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9.7 Additional information:

- a) The LandCare experts and partners conduct study/survey to assess the status of wetland integrity and rehabilitation/ restoration techniques to improve wetlands management.
- b) South Africa, through the Department of Environmental Affairs, has developed the National Terrestrial Carbon Sinks Assessment (NTCSA). The aim of the NTCSA was to assess the national carbon sinks in relation to afforestation, forest restoration, wetlands, agricultural practices and urban greening and to assess all significant land use change and quantify the potential future carbon stocks under varying climate change and land use scenarios. Furthermore, the National Biodiversity Assessment (2011) assessed the country's ecosystem threat status and protection level and identified wetlands as the most threatened of all South Africa's ecosystems, with 48% of wetland ecosystem types critically endangered.
- c) Various efforts linked to the UN Environment ([www.proecoserv.org](http://www.proecoserv.org)) have been undertaken in South Africa regarding valuation of ecosystem services of wetlands and aquatic systems (<http://www.sapecs.org/associated-projects/proecoserv/>) ; ([https://www.sanbi.org/sites/default/files/documents/documents/framework-ieimarch2014sanbi\\_0.pdf](https://www.sanbi.org/sites/default/files/documents/documents/framework-ieimarch2014sanbi_0.pdf))

<p>9.8 Has your country submitted a request for Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention, Resolution XII.10 ?</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
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9.8 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate How many request have been submitted):

**Target 10.** *The traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.*

<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
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)	Y
A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; C1= Partially; D= Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant	
10.1 Additional information:	
The management plans of Ramsar sites are developed in line with the recommended structure and content of a management plan for a Ramsar site or other wetlands contained in Ramsar Handbook 18 (Managing wetlands).	
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
A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned	
10.2 Additional information: (If yes please indicate the case studies or projects documenting information and experiences concerning culture and wetlands).	
10.3 Have the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands been used or applied. (Resolution VII. 8) (Action 6.1.5)	D
A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned	
10.3 Additional information: (If the answer is "yes" please indicate the use or application of the guidelines)	
10.4 Traditional knowledge and management practices relevant for the wise use of wetlands have been documented and their application encouraged (Action 6.1.2 )	D
A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned	
10.4 Additional information:	

**Target 11.** Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. {1.4.}

<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
<p>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</p>	<b>C1</b>
	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; C1=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
<p>11.1 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):</p> <p>BirdLife South Africa undertook a TESSA (Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-based Assessment) assessment at False Bay Nature Reserve Ramsar site.</p>	

<p>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</p>	<b>C</b>
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
<p>11.2 Additional information:</p> <p>BirdLife South Africa is working with land owners around the Verlorenvlei (including the upcatchment at Moutonshoek) and Bot - Kleinmond Estuarine System Ramsar sites to improve land management in order to improve the health of the estuaries, thereby securing the water bodies. These projects are being implemented under the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme, with the ultimate goal of securing these bordering properties and the water bodies as protected areas or conservation areas. BirdLife South Africa is also supporting habitat management at False Bay Nature Reserve.</p>	

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>11.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):</p> <p>The management plans of all Ramsar sites in the country have been developed in accordance with Ramsar Handbook on managing wetlands, and followed the recommended structure and content of a management plan for a Ramsar site or other wetland in that Handbook. Evaluation of socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands are integral parts of the recommended structure.</p>	

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>11.4 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):</p> <p>The management plans of all Ramsar sites in the country have been developed in accordance with Ramsar Handbook on managing wetlands, and followed the recommended structure and content of a management plan for a Ramsar site or other wetland in that Handbook. Evaluation of socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands are integral parts of the recommended structure.</p>	

**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.}

COP13 REPORT	
12.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i	Y A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

12.1 Additional information:

Wetlands have been prioritised for rehabilitation on a national, provincial and river basin scale through the Working for Wetlands Programme.

12.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been effectively implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i	<b>y</b> A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
<p>12.2 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if available the extent of wetlands restored ):</p> <p>The Working for Wetlands Programme has been effectively implemented since 2000. The Programme focuses on the restoration, protection and wise use of wetlands in a manner that optimises employment creation, skills transfer and enterprise development.</p>	

**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*

COP13 REPORT	
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?	<b>A</b> A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
<p>13.1. Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p> <p>Mining and biodiversity guidelines published (<a href="http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/industry-and-conservation/conservation-and-mining/understand-2/mining-and-biodiversity-guideline/">http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/industry-and-conservation/conservation-and-mining/understand-2/mining-and-biodiversity-guideline/</a>)</p>	
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	<b>A</b> A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>13.2 Additional information:</p> <p>: Yes there are a number of SEA processes that have recently taken place and considered wetlands explicitly. Karoo Shale Gas SEA, The Renewable Energy SEA and many others. <a href="https://redzs.csir.co.za/">https://redzs.csir.co.za/</a> ; <a href="http://seasgd.csir.co.za/">http://seasgd.csir.co.za/</a></p>	
13.3 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads,	<b>A</b>

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; B=No; C=Some Cases
<p>13.3 Additional information:          Yes this is routinely implement in South Africa and environmental legislation is well developed in this regard.  <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/legislations/nema_eia2014regulations_g38282.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/legislations/nema_eia2014regulations_g38282.pdf</a></p>	

## 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.}

COP13 REPORT	
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	<b>D</b> A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
<p>15.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):</p> <p>A Regional Initiative for southern African Contracting Parties is being planned.</p>	
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}	<b>B</b> A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
<p>15.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):</p>	

**Target 16.** Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness {4.1}.

COP13 REPORT	
16.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned

<p>a) At the national level b) Sub-national level c) Catchment/basin level d) Local/site level</p> <p>(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)</p>	<p>a) D b) A c) B d) A</p>
<p>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):</p> <p>Wetlands are part of the Environmental Awareness Programme run by the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism &amp; Environmental Affairs: Free State Provincial Government. This is one of the nine provincial governments in the Republic.</p>	
<p>16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>E= # centres; F=Less than #; G=More than #; C= Partially; X=Unknown; y=Not Relevant;</p> <p>a) 0 b) 2</p>
<p>16.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):</p> <p>a) Plans are being developed to build a visitor centre at False Bay Nature Reserve. b) BirdLife South Africa has the visitor and education centre at Wakkerstroom wetlands, which is intended to be nominated as a Ramsar site, and is currently an IBA and very important wetland. b) Visitor centre at the Intaka Island wetland at Century city, Cape Town.</p>	
<p>16.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management? {4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p> <p>a) A b) A</p>
<p>16.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <p>Stakeholders are involved through provincial wetland forums which exist in the provinces</p>	

16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	<b>Y</b> A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
<p>16.4 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP12; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>The committee was established in 2009. Its membership includes National and provincial government departments, public entities and a community property organisation. The committee has met 5 times since COP 12.</p> <p>The committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Advises the Minister on issues of national implementation of the Convention and COP Resolutions.</li> <li>b. Serves as a platform for national programmes relating to CEPA and to the work of the STRP. This includes inter alia: Advice and assist the Department of Environmental Affairs and Ramsar site management authorities to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Raise public awareness of the Ramsar sites and the Ramsar Convention,</li> <li>ii. Identify training and capacity building needs,</li> <li>iii. Identify research gaps and needs;</li> </ol> </li> <li>c. Coordinate the management of Ramsar sites in the country;</li> <li>d. Create a platform for exchange of advice and information;</li> <li>e. Network and exchange experiences relating to the management of Ramsar sites;</li> <li>f. Provide mechanism for resource mobilization;</li> <li>g. Providing advice to the process of removing Ramsar sites listed on the Montreux record and the designation of new Ramsar sites;</li> <li>h. Provide advice on general management performance and monitoring of Ramsar sites;</li> <li>i. Undertake ad hoc tasks that the administrative authority responsible for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention may give the committee;</li> <li>j. Assist with the identification and recommendation for a need to develop a policy, strategy, plan, guideline etc. for the purpose of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention; and</li> <li>k. provide expert input to National Reports, and South Africa's positions on Draft Resolutions for COPs.</li> </ol>	

16.5 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	<b>Y</b> A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
<p>16.5 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP12; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>The committee was established in 2009. Its membership includes National and provincial government departments, public entities and a community property organisation. The committee has met 5 times since COP 12.</p> <p>The committee:</p>	

- a. Advises the Minister on issues of national implementation of the Convention and COP Resolutions.
- b. Serves as a platform for national programmes relating to CEPA and to the work of the STRP. This includes inter alia: Advice and assist the Department of Environmental Affairs and Ramsar site management authorities to:
  - i. Raise public awareness of the Ramsar sites and the Ramsar Convention,
  - ii. Identify training and capacity building needs,
  - iii. Identify research gaps and needs;
- c. Coordinate the management of Ramsar sites in the country;
- d. Create a platform for exchange of advice and information;
- e. Network and exchange experiences relating to the management of Ramsar sites;
- f. Provide mechanism for resource mobilization;
- g. Providing advice to the process of removing Ramsar sites listed on the Montreux record and the designation of new Ramsar sites;
- h. Provide advice on general management performance and monitoring of Ramsar sites;
- i. Undertake ad hoc tasks that the administrative authority responsible for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention may give the committee;
- j. Assist with the identification and recommendation for a need to develop a policy, strategy, plan, guideline etc. for the purpose of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention; and
- k. provide expert input to National Reports, and South Africa's positions on Draft Resolutions for COPs.

<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ramsar Site managers</li> <li>b) other MEA national focal points</li> <li>c) other ministries, departments and agencies</li> </ul> <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p> <p>a) A b) B c) A</p>
<p>16.6 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>Through Provincial Wetland Forums mentioned above</p>	

<p>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}</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No</p>
<p>16.7 Additional information:</p> <p>South Africa through the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) celebrated the 2017 World Wetlands jointly with the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) and Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (EMM) at Esselen Park Pans in Tembisa, Gauteng Province.</p> <p>The awareness raising campaigns targeting primary schools within the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality were also conducted two weeks prior to the 2017 WWD celebration event. In this regards nine (9) schools were visited and the top three (three) schools presented during the day of the event. These schools presented their posters on the day of the event</p>	



and the winner walk away with R12 000.00, while second place walk away with R8 000.00 and third place with R5 000.00. All the prizes were in a form of vouchers.

See attached the speech delivered during the commemoration of the World Wetlands Day

[https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/mabudafhasi\\_commemoratesworldwetlandsday](https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/mabudafhasi_commemoratesworldwetlandsday)

Other activities:

2014:

1. BirdLife South Africa assisted Rand Water with their follow up Flufftail Festival school visits to Sebokeng.
2. BirdLife South Africa's the Avianator Programme in the Free State hosted WWD celebrations – lessons and activities around the importance of wetlands.

2015:

1. BirdLife South Africa's Wakkerstroom Visitor and Education Centre and the Department of Environmental Health hosted a WWD event at the Wakkerstroom Wetland – attended by local schools, and included round robin of activities and talks for a morning.
2. BirdLife South Africa's Wakkerstroom Visitor and Education Centre was involved in and presented at the Twin Treasures Symposium – WWD and Grasslands Week for MPU.
3. BirdLife South Africa's the Avianator Programme in the Free State hosted WWD celebrations – lessons and activities around the importance of wetlands.

2016:

1. BirdLife South Africa's Wakkerstroom Visitor and Education Centre was involved in the Twin Treasures event in Chrissiesmeer where participating schools were given environmental lectures and activities, and a presentation and awarded a ceremony was held for the learners in the African Spring Alive Art Competition.
2. BirdLife South Africa, Rand Water (Water Wise) and Eskom hosted the annual Flufftail Festival at Cresta Shopping Centre from 2-8 February 2016. The Flufftail Festival is linked to World Wetlands Day, a global event celebrating wetlands worldwide on 2 February. The aim of the Flufftail Festival was to raise awareness about a critical resource (water), threatened habitat (wetlands) and endangered birds (especially the White-winged Flufftail). With the drought dripping our country in 2016, there was no better time to be raising awareness about water.

2017:

3. Flufftail Festival 2017 (Maponya Mall, Soweto):

The annual Flufftail Festival was held at Maponya Mall, Soweto, Gauteng between the 31<sup>st</sup> January and the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 to raise awareness about the conservation of South Africa's wetland ecosystems and the Critically Endangered White-winged Flufftail that lives in them. BirdLife South Africa in partnership with Eskom, Rand Water, Redefine Properties, Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, and the Rare Finch Conservation Group worked together to make the festival a huge success.

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}	<b>y</b>
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
<p>16.8 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):</p> <p>Refer to 16.8 above</p> <p>BirdLife South Africa has partnered with the City of Cape Town to host four annual Birdathon events at the False Bay Nature Reserve Ramsar site (and IBA). These events have encouraged local communities to visit the site, and enjoy the recreational activities on offer, whilst also providing important environmental education and awareness. BirdLife South Africa also hosts numerous school groups at its Wakkerstroom Visitor and Education Centre, teaching about the environment, wetlands, water and birds.</p>	

**Target 17.** Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available. {4.2.}

<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
17.1 a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2015, 2016 and 2017? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i	<b>Y</b> A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
<p>b) If 'No' in 17.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:</p>	
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>B</b> A=Yes; B=No
<p>17.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities):</p>	
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	<b>Z</b> A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
<p>17.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP12):</p>	

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	<b>Z</b> A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant; Z=Not Applicable
17.4 Additional information:	

17.5 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}	<b>Z</b> A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
17.5 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP12):	

17.6 Has any financial support been provided by your country to the implementation of the Strategic Plan?	<b>B</b> A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
17.6 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities):	

**Target 18. International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}**

<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
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	<b>Y</b> A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
18.1 Additional information:  The CBD, CMS and UNCCD national focal point sits on the National Ramsar Committee	

18.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.2} {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv	<b>B</b> A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
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18.2 Additional information:	
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).	<b>X</b>
18.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the agency (es) or IOP (s) and the type of assistance received):	
18.4 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}	<b>B</b>
18.4 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):	
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	<b>A</b>
18.5 Additional information: BirdLife South Africa in 2015 published two documents relevant to Ramsar sites, which are also Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas: 1. Marnewick MD, Retief EF, Theron NT, Wright DR, Anderson TA.2015. Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas of South Africa. Johannesburg: BirdLife South Africa. 2. Marnewick MD, Retief EF, Wright DR, Theron NT. 2015. South Africa's Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas Status Report 2015. Johannesburg: BirdLife South Africa.	
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	<b>B</b>
18.6 Additional information:	



18.7 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i	<b>Y</b>
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
18.7 Additional information:	

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	<b>y</b>
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; Y=Not Relevant
18.8 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):	
Orange River Mouth, which is a transboundary wetland between South Africa and Namibia, has an Interim Management Committee comprising delegates of these two State.	

18.9 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii	<b>y</b>
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
18.9 Additional information:	
BirdLife South Africa participates in AEWA.	
BirdLife South Africa serves on the task force of the recently formed East Atlantic Flyway Initiative which consist of representatives from three African and two European countries. The taskforce has been mandated to consult with BirdLife partners and plan, help fundraise for and coordinate the implementation of the initiative across the regions. In addition, the taskforce will be coordinating stakeholders undertaking monitoring work on the flyway and will collaborate with existing programmes such as the Arctic Migratory Bird and Wadden Sea Flyway initiatives. The initiative is still at an early stage but BirdLife South Africa played a large role in the development of policy documents as well as a framework for the initiative and the coordination of activities amongst BirdLife partners in the southern hemisphere. In addition, BirdLife South Africa contributed significantly to the efforts of a coalition of organisations which saw the completion of a large-scale survey of the coast of the Indian Ocean (including the Gulf and the Red Sea) in Africa and West Asia during January 2017 in order to improve the understanding of the waterbird populations and their habitats in the flyway.	

**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?
19.1 Additional information:

19.2 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes?.	<b>Y</b>
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
19.2 Additional information: If you answer yes to the above please provide information on which mechanisms and materials	
Wetland conservation and wise use issues are included in the Environmental Sciences; Mining and Environmental Geology; and Earth Sciences in Hydrology and Water Resources related courses which are offered in various forms in many universities in the Republic.	

19.3 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP12? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv	a) 0 b) 0
a) at Ramsar Sites b) at other wetlands	E=# opportunities; F=Less than #; G= More than #; C= Partially; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
19.3 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):	

19.4 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii	<b>D</b>
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
19.4 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):	

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

## 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. Contributes to Aichi Target 2

### Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target:</b>		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>		
<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>		
<b>Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals</b>		
<b>Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018</b>		

Additional information:

**Target 2.** Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone. Contributes to Aichi Targets 7 and 8 and Sustainable Development Goal 6.3.1

### Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target:</b>		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>		
<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>		

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

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

Additional information:

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

### Planning of National Targets

**Priority of the target:** A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer

**Resourcing:** A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer

**National Targets (Text Answer):**

**Planned Activities (Text Answer):**

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

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

Additional information:

**Target 4.** *Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are*



prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment. Contributes to Aichi Target 9.

### Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target:</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals</b>	
<b>Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018</b>	

Additional information:

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

**Target 5.** The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective, planning and integrated management {2.1}. Contributes to Aichi Target 6,11, 12.

### Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target:</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals</b>	

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

Additional information:

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

### Planning of National Targets

**Priority of the target:** A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer

**Resourcing:** A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer

**National Targets (Text Answer):**

**Planned Activities (Text Answer):**

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

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

Additional information:

## 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. Contributes to Aichi Targets 12, 14, 18, 19.

### Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target:</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals</b>	
<b>Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018</b>	
Additional information:	

**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}. Contributes to Aichi Targets 4, 6, 7.*

### Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target:</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals</b>	
<b>Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018</b>	

Additional information:

**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. Contributes to Aichi Target 18.*

### Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target:</b>		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>		
<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>		
<b>Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals</b>		
<b>Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018</b>		

Additional information:

**Target 11.** *Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. {1.4.}. Contributes to Aichi Targets 1, 2, 13, 14.*

### Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target:</b>		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>		
<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>		

<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals</b>	
<b>Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018</b>	
Additional information	

**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}. Contributes to Aichi Targets 14 and 15.

### Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target :</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals</b>	
<b>Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018</b>	

**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. Contributes to Aichi Targets 6 and 7.

### Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target:</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals</b>	
<b>Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018</b>	

Additional information

## 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.}

### Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target:</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement</b>	

of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

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

Additional information

**Target 16.** Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness {4.1}. Contributes to Aichi Target 1 and 18.

### Planning of National Targets

**Priority of the target:**

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

**Resourcing:**

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

**National Targets (Text Answer):**

**Planned Activities (Text Answer):**

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

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

Additional information

**Target 17.** Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available. {4.2.}. Contributes to Aichi Target 20.

### Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target:</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals</b>	
<b>Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018</b>	

Additional information

**Target 18.** International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

### Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target:</b>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>	
<b>Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals</b>	



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

Additional information

**Target 19.** Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced. Contributes to Aichi Targets 1 and 17.

### Planning of National Targets

**Priority of the target:** A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer

**Resourcing:** A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer

**National Targets (Text Answer):**

**Planned Activities (Text Answer):**

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

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

Additional information

## Section 5: Optional annex to enable Contracting Parties to provide additional voluntary information on designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)

### Guidance for filling in this section

1. Contracting Parties can opt to provide additional information specific to any or all of their designated Ramsar Sites.
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.

**Name of Contracting Party:**

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**List of indicator questions:**

- 5.7** Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
- 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.
- 11.1** Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
- 11.3** Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
- 11.4** Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
- 16.3a** Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
- 16.6a** Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

Ramsar Site number	Ramsar Site name	5.7 ①	5.9 ①	11.1 ③	11.3 ④	11.4 ④	16.3a ①	16.6a ①	Any additional comments/information about the site
<i>Ex:1603</i>	<i>Lake White</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>B - No</i>	<i>D - Planned</i>	

- ① A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
- ③ A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
- ④ A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; Z=No Management Plan