

Ramsar National Report to COP13

Section 1: Institutional Information

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

Name of Contracting Party

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

> United Arab Emirates

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Letter - Ramsar National Report.pdf](#)

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority

> Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

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Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

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

Name and title

> Reem Al Mheiri - Biologist

Name of organisation

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

Name and title

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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)
 - › Enhancing the collaboration with stakeholders
- 2)
 - › Exposure to best practices among different Ramsar sites
- 3)
 - › Benefits from available information (guidelines and handbooks) regarding wetlands and its management
- 4)
 - › Designation of Ramsar Sites within the country
- 5)
 - › Raising public awareness through CEPA and annual celebrations of World Wetlands Day.

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

- 1)
 - › Lack of regional understanding and implementation.
- 2)
 - › Sustainability of wetland areas – consideration of wetlands within land use development plans
- 3)
 - › Unclear legislative framework that is associated with designated Ramsar sites
- 4)
 - › Development projects surrounding the wetlands – there is a lack of recognition from developers on the importance of site and convention
- 5)
 - › Lack of sufficient database

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

- 1)
 - › National legislative framework.
- 2)
 - › Establishing Wetlands National Technical Team
- 3)
 - › Inter-emirate collaboration in the implementation of CEPA projects and programs
- 4)
 - › Establishment of a viable management plan
- 5)
 - › Further scientific research and species assessments

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

- › • Further capacity building for wetland management in the Middle East such as technical workshops for wetland managers in the region focusing on the integration of the principles of the Ramsar Convention into protected area plans
- Introduce Arabic language to the work of the convention specially for social media, Ramsar website, Ramsar guidelines and resolutions.
- Guidance from STRP on the impact of desalination on coastal wetlands that incorporates case studies would

also greatly serve the region.

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)
> Capacity building and more defined guidelines and best practices provided in the Arabic language

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

> The UAE considers ensuring synergies between domestic policies and Ramsar Convention as well as other MEAs is very important. We are working to ensure that goals and targets under the Ramsar Convention are met or are in line with domestic policies, including the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan, National Strategy for Sustainability of the Marine, Coastal Environment, National Climate Change Plan 2017-2050, and the Green Agenda 2030. These strategies and policies are overseen by the UAE Council on Climate Change and Environment chaired by the Minister of Climate Change and Environment and consists of high-level representatives from relevant federal and local entities to make sure there is a coordinated implementation at the national and local levels.

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)?

> The UAE has developed specific environment conservation strategies e.g. water resources management, biodiversity conservation and sustainability of marine and coastal areas. The wetland conservation is linked to these strategies. Most of the issues related to wetlands are covered within these strategies.

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

> Environmental Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), Dubai Municipality, Environment and Protected Area Agency (EPAA) Sharjah, Ajman Municipality and Fujairah Municipality

Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

Target 1

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

Target 2

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

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

2.2 Additional Information

> As part of operating procedure and requirements for development permitting, environmental impact assessments must identify mitigation measures for all projects that may affect natural habitats, including wetlands.

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

C=Partially

2.3 Additional Information

> Al Wathba in Abu Dhabi relies on excess treated sewage effluent rather than relying on freshwater, desalinated or groundwater resources. It is an example of sustainable use of treated and reused water. The flora rehabilitation program (requiring limited irrigation) will utilise treated sewage effluent as well, as such there is no consumption of freshwater or desalinated water required.

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.)

A=Yes

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 3.4.ix.)

A=Yes

2.5 Additional Information

> The Emirate of Abu Dhabi has developed the Water Resources Management Strategy 2014-2018, in addition to the publication of the Water Budget Approach for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi Policy Brief, as well as the initiation of the groundwater focused initiatives.

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

G=More than (households/municipalities)

> 70%

2.6 Additional Information

> In the UAE above 70% of household/municipalities are linked to sewage system.

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

G=More than (percentage)

> 75%

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

G=More than (percentage)

> 30%

2.8 Additional Information

> More than 30% of the treated water is used in irrigation of landscaping and public lands in addition to municipal uses.

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

X=Unknown

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

C=Functioning

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

G=More than (plants)

> 10

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

A=Good

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

C=Functioning

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

A=Yes

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

S=Landscape

2.15 Additional Information

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

> the purpose of the wastewater reuse systems is for both landscape and industrial use

Target 3

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

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

KRA 1.10.i

A=Yes

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

Please select only one per square.

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

3.2 Additional information

> In the UAE there are a number of stakeholders in the private sector that contribute to the conservation, wise use and management of the wetlands. In the Emirate of Dubai, EMAAR Properties in cooperation with Dubai Municipality, are the main sponsors in the development of monitoring guidelines of the wetlands. In the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, research and conservation efforts such as the Al Wathba rehabilitation project, Marawah Marine Biosphere Reserve - Dugong research...etc) are due to the long term partnership agreements with Total and Dolphin Energy .

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

A=Yes

3.3 Additional information

> In the UAE as part of CSR initiative companies are encouraged to ensure wise use of marine wetlands through partnership and cooperation, for example the Environmental Agency in Abu Dhabi cooperates with many companies to ensure that their wetlands are used sustainably. Another example is the Natural Capital Protocol which was been launched in partnership with the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group and its corporate members. Although not specific to wetlands, this initiative will further integrate wise use of water and wetlands into corporate sustainability policies.

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

Z=Not Applicable

Target 4

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

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

A=Yes

4.1 Additional information

> The UAE, In collaboration with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the IUCN Species Survival Commission Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG), worked to identify the invasive species within the country.

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

A=Yes

4.2 Additional information

> The UAE has developed and published the country's National Invasive Species List as well as developed national plans and projects for the prevention and control of invasive species.

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

G=More than (species)

> 6

4.3 Additional information

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

> • There are a number of priority invasive species that have been targeted for management and control, in Abu Dhabi for example as of 2017 there are roughly 5 species that have active control programs.

• 8 priority invasive species have been targeted for management and control in Abu Dhabi Emirate, as of 2017, 5 of these species have active control programs.

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

C=Partially

Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

Target 5

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

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

D=Planned

5.1 Additional information

> • Emirate of Abu Dhabi - Zakher pools and Mangrove National Park

• Emirate of Sharjah - Wasit

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

A=Yes

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

G=More than (sites)

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

G=More than (sites)

> 1

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

G=More than (sites)

> 4

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

A=Yes

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

E=Exact number (sites)

> 1

5.7 Additional information

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

> Al Wathba Wetland Reserve . Site No 2142

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

E=Exact number (sites)

> 4

5.8 Additional information

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

- > • Al Wathba Wetland Reserve
- Bul Syayeeef Protected Area
- Ras Al Khor
- Wadi Wurayah

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

A=Yes

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

> All sites in the UAE are assessed using the METT (2014 - 2016)

Target 7

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

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

A=Yes

7.1 Additional information

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

> Regular official communication in addition to regular meetings between local authorities and the administrative authority on biodiversity-wide issues.

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

A=Yes

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

> Expected changes in the ecological characters of Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary on the long term was raised to the secretariat through the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, based on this the ministry has requested an advisory mission to assess the effects of development in the vicinity of Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary, the mission took place in the period between 13-17th May 2017.

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=No

7.3 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken

> We would like to kindly note that the Advisory mission that was requested for Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary is in the final phases of reporting. The UAE plans to address the issues that the site faces.

Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

Target 8

National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

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

C=In Progress

8.1 Additional information

> The UAE is working towards developing a full natural habitat map in which the project aims to identify natural habitats in the country. Phase 1 of the project covered over 80% of the country which was completed in Abu Dhabi. Phase 2 is expected to be complete by the end of 2018 and will cover the Northern Emirates. The country is also working on Wetland monitoring through satellite imagery this project covers, Wadi Wurayah in Fujairah as well as Ras Al Khor in Dubai, and is also expected to be completed by the end of 2018

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

8.3 Additional information

> Wetland inventory is maintained through regular habitat monitoring While some wetland monitoring and assessment are conducted on a quarterly basis (such as Al Wathba) or biannual basis (Marine and coastal habitats, including coral reef monitoring).

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

A=Yes

8.4 Additional information

> Stakeholders have access to information on all Ramsar sites in the UAE. For example, a publicly accessible habitat map has been developed in Abu Dhabi (<https://enviroportal.ead.ae/map/>) in addition to regularly published species and habitat reports (www.ead.ae)

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

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b)

> In the last triennium the number of Ramsar sites within the UAE has increased. The conditions of these sites has also improved, this has been achieved through a number of effort, such as:

- The application of the METT to all protected sites (including Ramsar sites) within the UAE. Through quantitative and qualitative assessments there is significant increase in population recovery of native fauna, terrestrial and aquatic.
- Specific demarcation of Protected Area Boundaries and total protection of particular site
- Positive change drivers have also helped to improve the sites by increased protection, ensuring sustainable practices within the Ramsar site and protected areas, and increased environmental law enforcement

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

C=Partially

8.6 Additional information

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

> The UAE is working towards developing a full natural habitat map in which the project aims to identify natural habitats in the country. Phase 1 of the project covered over 80% of the country which was completed in Abu Dhabi. Phase one of the project indicates the following for wetland habitats, however for marine wetlands this coverage may include certain areas that are deeper than 6m at low tide and beyond the Ramsar definition of wetlands.

- Coral reefs: 311 sqkm
- Seagrass beds: 1025 sqkm
- Mangroves: 155 sqkm
- Intertidal mudflats: 354.7 sqkm
- Lagoons and creeks (including saltmarsh habitat): 1411 sqkm
- Wadis and floodplains * temporary wetlands: 137.52 sqkm (Abu Dhabi) and 127 sqkm (Wadi Wurayah, Fujairah)

Habitat mapping project for emirate of Dubai has been initiated and by the end of 2018 the exact estimation of wetland ecosystem area will be available.

Target 9

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

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

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

C=In Preparation

9.1 Additional information

> The UAE has developed a National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP) as well as National Strategy for Sustainability of the Marine and Coastal Environment. Each emirate within the UAE is also encouraged to promote wise use of wetlands, for example the Abu Dhabi Biodiversity strategy 2015-2020 addresses habitat conservation priorities including wetlands. The Abu Dhabi Habitat Classification and Protection Guideline was published in 2017 priorities critical habitats which include priority wetland habitats present in Abu Dhabi Emirate. Abu Dhabi is also planning a comprehensive protected area policy which will promote wise use across wetland habitats.

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

D=Planned

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

A=Yes

9.4 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}

A=Yes

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

C=Partially

9.5 Additional information

> The UAE has worked on a number of projects that focus on the enhancing the roles of wetlands in mitigating and/or adapting to climate change. For example the UAE has recently developed a National Climate Change Plan 2017-2050. A National Blue Carbon Project was conducted in the past triennium which focused on assessing the level of sequestered carbon in blue carbon ecosystems.

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

A=Yes

9.6 Additional information

> Some competent authorities within the UAE have begun work in sustaining and enhancing the role that wetlands play in farming systems. For example work is on ongoing in Abu Dhabi Emirate in cooperation with the forestry sector and agricultural sector (Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority and Farmer's Cooperative Society) for an up to date inventory of the status and location of all groundwater wells.

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

Please select only one per square.

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

9.7 Additional information

> The UAE has conducted a number of studies that aid in developing policies within the country. Some of these studies or projects include the National Blue Carbon Project which focuses assessing the level of sequestered carbon in blue carbon ecosystems. The National Climate Change Plan as well as the Food Diversification Strategy was also developed, both touch on upon the value of ecosystem services and the importance of nature conservation. Other strategies within the country aid in informing future water consumption across multiple sectors such as the agriculture, industry, domestic use..

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

D=Planned

Target 10

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

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

A=Yes

10.1 Additional information

> Cultural values are systematically taken into account in protected area planning and management. Traditional knowledge is currently being gathered for both marine wetlands (fishermen interviews) as well as inland (groundwater usage, farming and grazing practices).

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)

D=Planned

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=Planned

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)

C=In Preparation

10.4 Additional information

> In the UAE there is a program to gather traditional fisheries knowledge as well as knowledge commenced in 2015 while a project to gather traditional knowledge on past grazing and farming practices (including groundwater extraction) has commenced in 2017. These projects seek to document traditional knowledge related to resource use and translate this knowledge into modern day environmental policies and educational applications. Interviews have taken place with community elders across the UAE (fishermen and farm owners)

Target 11

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

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

A=Yes

11.1 Additional information

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

> A number of projects have been carried out which include assessments of the ecosystem benefits and services. These projects include the National Blue Carbon Project, the Economic Value of some Ecosystems were conducted in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. There are also plans for further assessments to be carried out across the UAE in the near future.

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

Y=Not Relevant

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

C=Partially

11.3 Additional information

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

> In 2014 a study titled Ecosystem Services Assessment Facilitated by the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) as a continuation of Phase I of the Blue Carbon Project, the Ecosystems Services Assessment sees contingent valuation employed to study the willingness to pay for the preservation of coastal marine habitats that have already been studied. The Project investigated and assessed the full range of ecosystem benefits that, together with carbon sequestration, that should be taken account of in complex, land-use decision making

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

A=Yes

11.4 Additional information

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

> Cultural values are systematically considered in the planning and management of protected areas, including wetland sites such as Al Wathba, Mangrove National Park, Wadi Wurayah. For other protected areas it has been planned to include incorporate cultural values into management planning

Target 12

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

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

A=Yes

12.1 Additional information

> There are a number of sites in the UAE that have been designated as priority sites for wetland restoration and protection. Some of these sites include Al Qurm and Al Hefaiyah Protected Area, Al Wathba as well as the Mangrove National park

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

A=Yes

12.2 Additional information

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

> There are currently two sites in the UAE that have begun the restoration/rehabilitation program.

- The Al Wathba Wetland Rehabilitation Programme has begun implementation in 2017. The wetland restoration included: Complete removal of all commercial and recreational fishing practices from the site, livestock grazing e.g. camels and goats have been removed from the site. A more "hands off" approach has been given to restoration, natural fish and marine invertebrate recovery has been significant.
- In Wadi Wurayah the area has been closed to the public for a number years in order to restore and rehabilitate the area. Some of the practices include the removal of livestock grazing as well as waste from the area.

Target 13

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

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

A=Yes

13.1. Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken

> The UAE has taken a number of actions that enhance the sustainability of key factors that may affect wetlands. For the aquaculture and fisheries, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment has cooperated with local authorities to develop a joint sustainable fisheries programme. Critical and environmentally sensitive habitats including wetland areas have been incorporated into 2030 Urban and Maritime Planning Policies in cooperation with the Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council. The water resources management strategy for Abu Dhabi Emirate has also set out a Cross-Sectoral Strategy for The Conservation of Water Resources, including groundwater. With regards to tourism, there have been significant stakeholder engagement for instance, between EPAA in the Emirate of Sharjah and tourism developers that want to utilize the Al Qurm & Al Hefaiyah site. The primary focus has been to ensure the environmental sustainability of the recreational utilization of the site. Construction impact mitigation has been a primary discussion point.

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

A=Yes

13.2 Additional information

> SEAs are required for all master plans or multi-project development plans, as stated in National permitting requirements.

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

{1.3.4} {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii

A=Yes

13.3 Additional information

> In the UAE, EIAs are required by law and a standard operating procedure are in place for any development. an environmental permit application is required for all projects listed above.

Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

Target 15

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

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

B=No

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

A=Yes

15.2 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s)

> The UAE supports as well as participates in regional training targeting wetlands, for example the Natural Resources Conservation Section from Dubai Municipality had organised a regional workshop in cooperation with Tour du Valat Biological Station and Satellite-Wetlands Observation Service SWOS. With the support of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, invites for the workshop were forwarded to all national competent authorities as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council level.

Target 16

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

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

16.1 Additional information

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

> There are a number of CEPA related activities planned and carried out by the local competent authorities across the UAE. For example:

- The protected area management program at the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi develops an annual communication and outreach plan in cooperation with the Outreach and Awareness department, integrating it within ongoing environmental education programs such as Sustainable Schools and Sustainable Campus Initiative.
- The Environmental Protected Areas Authority in Sharjah are currently planning for a visitor centre to be established in Al Qurm & Al Hefaiyah Protected Area, which will include CEPA actions.
- There are some wetlands that incorporate their CEPA plans into their annual plans of environmental awareness activities, such as Dubai Municipality.
- Wadi Wurayah National Park have a running educational program "WRLP", this program is designed to cover five years period until 2018. There are also plans for a more comprehensive CEPA plan to be adopted in the near future.

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

E=Exact Number (centres)

> 3

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

b) at other wetlands

E=Exact Number (centres)

16.2 Additional information

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

> There are a number of centres at Ramsar sites that welcome the public, such as the Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary in Dubai that has two open bird watch towers for visitors to observe the biodiversity in the sanctuary. These watch towers also provide some information on the wetlands as well as the species within it. At Wadi Wurayah National Park there is a welcoming facility as part of the water research and learning program. There are also plans to open further centres in Ramsar wetlands such as the Al Qurm & Al Hefaiyah Protected Area (project is being planned - Design Stage completed, construction to start in 2018) - Local Sharjah Network. In other wetlands that are not Ramsar designated such as the Wasit Wetland Reserve that has an Educational Centre. The centre's targets children with a variety of educational programs and activities to raise the awareness of the importance and fauna and flora within the wetland.

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

Please select only one per square.

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

16.3 Additional information

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

> The UAE promotes and encourages the local competent authorities to involve stakeholders to participate in the planning and management of the wetlands. Stakeholder engagements are regularly held with key urban planning agencies, for the Environmental Agency Abu Dhabi holds monthly coordination meeting with the Urban Planning Council, as well as the Department of Municipal Affairs and Transport. They also work closely with the Sewerage Services Company who is involved in the management of Al Wathba Ramsar Site. The Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary has a management committee that is composed of members from the business sector, private sector and government institutions. Wadi Wurayah National Park invite stakeholders to engage/participate at the early stages of developing a management plan and governance structure.

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

D=Planned

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

D=Planned

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

A=Yes

16.7 Additional information

> World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year across all protected areas and wetlands by local competent authorities.

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

A=Yes

16.8 Additional information

If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this
> CEPA activities are carried out across wetlands, such as Al Dhafra annual festival, fishermen awareness campaigns, and regular media and school visits and events at Al Wathba wetland reserve and Mangrove National Park. Interpretative Talks; NRCS has played an integral role in channeling information about the role of wetlands in by providing guided tours for various types of visitors that visit the Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary. Staff are present in the bird hides to cater to visitor needs and to make sure their visit is enjoyable but provides them with sound knowledge of the nature around them, instilling a consciousness of the preservation of wetlands. The number of visitors have increased: 48,659 in 2015 to 92,309 in 2016; and currently 136,751 visitors in 2017. A total of 600 students from schools have visited Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary over the past two years.

Every year Local competent authorities celebrate international days such as World Wetlands Day by organizing seminars and workshops for professionals, exciting activities for educational institutes and various other activities, including competitions, awareness lectures and volunteering opportunities. In 2017, at least 500 students participated in World Wetlands Day Awareness Workshop. Educational Materials were also created which includes implementation of educational boards at Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary, brochures and translated materials

Other days such as World Migratory Bird Day are promoted to create awareness about migratory birds that visit the Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary. Seminars, workshops for school, social media photo contest and mall awareness activity are also organised . In 2016 and 2017, at least 300 participants including students attended the World Migratory Bird Day Seminar.

There is also a Volunteers Programme at the Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary. This activity highlights the importance of ecological balance in wetlands management. Around 20 university students volunteered to participate in pulling out of mangroves at Ras Al Khor Wildlife sanctuary. At least 20 volunteers from various universities participated in Mangrove Management Activity. Another program which encourages the participation of the public is the International Coastal Clean-up that is held at the Jabal Ali Marine Sanctuary. The activity engaged students, corporate organizations, under water divers and the general public to join forces to remove and record trash. In 2016, More than 2 tons of trash were removed along a 2 Km stretch of the beach.

Target 17

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

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

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=No

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=No

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}

Z=Not Applicable

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

B=No

Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

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

B=No

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

C=Partially

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

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

A=Yes

18.3 Additional information

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

> The UAE is currently working with BirdLife to identify the IBAs in the country. The country has also worked and continues to work with IUCN and UNEP.

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}

D=Planned

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

A=Yes

18.5 Additional information

> Information on all shape files of all protected areas of the UAE is published on the Protected Planet website.

As well as In Abu Dhabi Emirate, information about Al Wathba Ramsar Site is available through the EAD website, and the field guide for the wetland is available for download and is distributed in hard copy to wetland visitors. Information on Mangrove National Park and other marine wetland areas is also made available through published annual reports and through information updated online e.g.:

<https://www.ead.ae/Pages/Mangrove-National-Park.aspx>

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

C=Partially

18.6 Additional Information

> In 2017, the Competent Authority Dubai Municipality took initiative to translate all the educational material

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

Z=Not Applicable

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

Y=Not Relevant

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

A=Yes

18.9 Additional information

> The UAE takes part in the regional networks and initiatives for wetland dependent migratory species such as the Convention on Migratory Species – Signatory to Raptor MoU, the Dugong MoU and Sharks MoU, as well as IOSEA

Target 19

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

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

C=Partially

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

A=Yes

19.2 Additional information

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

> The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment in collaboration with the Ministry of Education the UAE have included all protected areas conservation and wise use issues into the UAE's formal education programmes. The integration of marine and inland wetlands visits and programs into the Sustainable Schools and Sustainable Campus initiative have also been included.

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

E=Exact number (opportunities)

> 2

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

b) at other wetlands

E=Exact number (Opportunities)

> 1

19.3 Additional information

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

> There are a number of training opportunities for site managers to share best practice through workshops since the previous COP12. These trainings include:

- Protected Area's Monitoring Programs, December 2016. Organized by Dubai Municipality for NRCS staff.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Wetlands. Regional Workshop organised by DM in Dubai 5-9th November.
- International Partnership for Blue Carbon Workshop Abu Dhabi, 11 -13 July 2017

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

A=Yes

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

Goal 1

Target 1: Wetland benefits

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

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Priority

A=High

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Resourcing

B=Adequate

Target 1: Wetland benefits - National Targets

> TARGET 1.2 By 2021, biodiversity values have been integrated in national and local development planning and decision making processes.

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Planned activity

> • Integrate biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the national policies and plans for education.

• Review best practices that have been used in other countries to value biodiversity and ecosystem services, and where practicable, develop ways to apply them in UAE.

• Promote and support, in partnership with the government and private sectors, the integration of biodiversity considerations into sustainable land and water management initiatives.

• Encourage and support sector-led initiatives to effectively incorporate biodiversity considerations in their strategic planning and operational practices, with a focus on the agriculture, forestry, horticulture, fisheries, aquaculture and tourism sectors.

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Outcomes achieved by 2018

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

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

> - Mainstreaming wetlands conservation into all relevant policies

- Many wetland projects and programs achieved with all stakeholders.

Target 2: Water Use

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

Target 2: Water Use - Priority

A=High

Target 2: Water Use - Resourcing

B=Adequate

Target 2: Water Use - National Targets

- > • TARGET 4.2. By 2021, 50% of government-owned and of non-government-owned areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably to ensure the conservation of biodiversity.
- TARGET 4.3. By 2021, all land- and water-based pollution has been brought to levels not detrimental to sensitive ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Target 2: Water Use - Planned activity

- > • Avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse impacts of human activities on marine biodiversity and develop habitat restoration programmes where appropriate.
- Promote eco-tourism as an economic opportunities to sustain UAE biodiversity.
- Develop, select and use cost-effective methods (including indicators and criteria) for monitoring biodiversity and pollutions sources that have possible impacts on biodiversity.
- Review of the coastal policies and management plans, assess its effectiveness in protecting marine biodiversity, and implement changes accordingly.
- Clarify and identify concerned parties accountabilities for monitoring and reporting on biodiversity and develop and agree with partners on a national pollution standards that will brought to levels not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- Promote individual and community awareness of the effects of human activities on biodiversity, and the opportunities and responsibilities to protect and maintain habitats and ecosystems of importance to biodiversity.

Target 2: Water Use - Outcomes achieved by 2018

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

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

- > - UAE has developed a monitoring programs for coastal and marine areas
- Regular assessment of wetlands Ramsar sites management (METT)
- The country is also working on Wetland monitoring through satellite imagery this project covers, Wadi Wurayah in Fujairah as well as Ras Al Khor in Dubai, and is also expected to be completed by the end of 2018

Target 3: Public and private sectors

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

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Priority

B=Medium

Target 3: Public and private sectors - National Targets

- > • TARGET 1.1 By 2021, implement awareness programmes that target all UAE residents, resulting in at least 75% of UAE citizens being aware of biodiversity values, its protection, and sustainable use.
- TARGET 1.4 By 2021, there has been a 50% increase in the number of government- owned and non-government owned businesses implementing measures for sustainable production and consumption to minimise the impact on biodiversity in UAE

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Planned activity

- > • Make information about biodiversity available to people and communities, relevant to their local environments (that is, on the extent and management needs of ecosystems, habitats and native species).
- Develop awareness programmes targeting all society on values of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components.
- Develop a public awareness programmes about ecosystems, habitats and species important for biodiversity conservation.
- Promote and coordinate the role of environmental education in the conservation and sustainable use of UAE (Education Strategy) and encourage the active participation of local authorities, businesses, and environmental and community groups in developing and implementing environmental education activities.
- Support activities that enhance private sector and community understanding of ways to avoid or minimise the effects of human activities on biodiversity, and encourage community involvement in practical initiatives that help achieve the sustainable management of biodiversity.
- 2. Incorporate biodiversity values into sector- and industry-based environmental management systems, performance standards, guidelines, environmental policies and codes of practice, with the help of advice and information from government agencies.

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

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

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

- > - Implementation of the UAE Green Agenda 2030 and NBSAP which addresses many relevant actions to conserve Wetlands
- Integrate biodiversity issues on all UAE related policies.
- establishment of the Supreme Council for the environment

Target 4: Invasive alien species

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

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Priority

A=High

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Resourcing

A=Good

Target 4: Invasive alien species - National Targets

> TARGET 4.4. By 2021, all introduced invasive species and pathways are identified, and management plans to control the prioritised ones are developed and implemented.

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Planned activity

- > • Enhance border control to prevent harmful species and diseases establishing and being spread within UAE's environment (by practices such as discharge of ballast water and the de-fouling of ship hulls).
- Conduct baseline surveys to identify the IAS and assess their impacts on local environment.
- Assess the risks of the introduction of imported species through trade in order to minimise possible impacts.
- Develop procedures to enhance cooperation between agencies and encourage information sharing on biosecurity issues.
- Identify the distribution of exotic species and assess the actual and potential impacts of these on ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Increase pest control and management efforts to levels congruent with national biodiversity goals and develop new technologies and techniques to combat existing and emergent threats to biodiversity from pests.
- Develop and apply an integrated risk assessment framework that can be consistently applied for assessing the risks posed to biodiversity by the importation of new organisms (including genetically modified organisms).

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Outcomes achieved by 2018

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

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

> The UAE has developed and published the country's National Invasive Species List as well as developed national plans and projects for the prevention and control of invasive species

Goal 2

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites

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

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Priority

A=High

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Resourcing

B=Adequate

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - National Targets

- > • TARGET 3.2. By 2021, 12% of terrestrial and 14% of coastal and marine areas are conserved through an effectively managed, ecologically representative network of protected areas, taking into account, as appropriate, connecting areas of particular importance to biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- TARGET 3.3. By 2021, programmes developed and implemented to improve the conservation status of 70% of species most threatened by extinction.
- TARGET 4.1. By 2021, at least 70% of important and vulnerable living marine resources are managed sustainably.

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Planned activity

- > 1. Complete a comprehensive national biodiversity survey and assessment to identify habitats and ecosystems important for biodiversity.
- 2. Establish new protected areas important for biodiversity that are not represented within the existing protected area or that are at significant risk of irreversible loss or decline.
- 3. Update legislation related to protected areas to provide basis for protected areas management and establishment.
- 4. Enhance protected areas management effectiveness in order to improve habitat and species conservation system.
- 5. Develop biodiversity management guidelines and code of conduct for eco-tourism in Protected Areas.
- 6. Establishing a network of marine and terrestrial protected areas that represent UAE marine and terrestrial ecosystems.
- 7. Encourage the designation of declared protected areas in related international conventions such as: Ramsar sites, UNESCO world natural heritage, and UNESCO MAP.
- 8. Promote private sector and community awareness of opportunities to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, and to protect and maintain habitats and ecosystems of importance to biodiversity.
- 9 Increase planned recovery actions to cover priority threatened species and subspecies so that viable representative populations are maintained in habitats and ecosystems important for biodiversity.
- 10. Review national legislations in terms of their effectiveness in protecting threatened species and ecosystems, taking into account mechanisms under the other relevant legislation.
- 11. Survey the threatened species and extend them to assess coastal and marine species.
- 12. Identify and protect threatened species and their key habitats.
- 13. Implement population management plans for those threatened marine and terrestrial species ranked as high priority.
- 14 Minimise the loss of indigenous biodiversity through efficient regulation of illegal species trade.
- 15. Identify the marine and terrestrial migratory species in the State and their classification according to the degree of threat of extinction or change its course.
- 16. Implement conservation plans for threatened marine and terrestrial migratory species ranked as high priority.

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

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

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

> The UAE has conducted management effectiveness evaluation on a yearly basis from 2014 - 2016. The tool that was used during the evaluation was the METT and covered a number of topics, from management of the site to the education and awareness. The evaluations aid management in better conserving the sites biodiversity as well as address any potential issues that may arise. The UAE working to develop management plans for all protected areas in the UAE, which includes the designated Ramsar sites.

Target 7: Sites at risk

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

Target 7: Sites at risk - Priority

A=High

Target 7: Sites at risk - Resourcing

B=Adequate

Target 7: Sites at risk - National Targets

> TARGET 3.4. By 2021, the rate of loss of natural habitats, including critical habitats, is reduced by 25%.

Target 7: Sites at risk - Planned activity

- > 1. Develop effective methods of ecosystem classification and mapping biodiversity and for identifying and monitoring key biodiversity issues and threats.
2. Develop and implement rapid survey techniques that identify and assess the threats to key ecosystems.
3. Develop a comprehensive government policy objectives for biodiversity management, considering all stakeholder and public interests.
4. Expand programmes to mitigate the adverse effects of land use on biodiversity, and incorporate biodiversity priorities into programmes for sustainable land use, and related strategies.
5. Review international legislation best practices in the protection of biodiversity and incorporate them in developing new legislations where possible .
6. Encourage community understanding of, and involvement in, programmes and activities to protect, maintain and restore biodiversity through showcase projects and volunteer programmes, and improve access to information, technology, expertise and resources.

Target 7: Sites at risk - Outcomes achieved by 2018

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

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

- > - implement programs of restoration and rehabilitation in wetlands
- National blue carbon project
- Baseline surveys

Goal 3

Target 8: National wetland inventories

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

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Priority

A=High

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Resourcing

A=Good

Target 8: National wetland inventories - National Targets

> TARGET 2.2. By 2021, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of communities related to sustainable use of biodiversity are respected, and taken into consideration when developing national and local legislation and policies.

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Planned activity

- > 1. Inventory practices and traditional knowledge, innovations related to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the country.
2. Review national policies and legislation and ensure respect for the practices and traditional knowledge, innovations related to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
3. Encourage local community involvement and partnerships in programmes and participation in projects to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Outcomes achieved by 2018

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

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

- > • All of the management plan for wetlands will be developed according to the wetlands inventories
- There is an ongoing national wetlands inventories that is being developed by the Ministry of Climate change and Environment. The information for the wetlands will be available online for public use.

Target 9: Wise Use

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

Target 9: Wise Use - Priority

A=High

Target 9: Wise Use - Resourcing

A=Good

Target 9: Wise Use - National Targets

- > • TARGET 1.2 By 2021, biodiversity values have been integrated in national and local development planning and decision making processes.
- TARGET 1.4 By 2021, there has been a 50% increase in the number of government- owned and non-government owned businesses implementing measures for sustainable production and consumption to minimise the impact on biodiversity in UAE.

Target 9: Wise Use - Planned activity

- > 1. Integrate biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the national policies, strategies and plans for education.
- 2. Review best practices that have been used in other countries to value biodiversity and ecosystem services, and where practicable, develop ways to apply them in UAE.
- 3. Promote and support, in partnership with the government and private sectors, the integration of biodiversity considerations into sustainable land and water management initiatives.
- 4. Encourage and support sector-led initiatives to effectively incorporate biodiversity considerations in their strategic planning and operational practices, with a focus on the agriculture, forestry, horticulture, fisheries, aquaculture and tourism sectors.

Target 9: Wise Use - Outcomes achieved by 2018

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

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

- > - All marine protected areas, including the designated Ramsar sites, have a no take policy. This is supported by the sites amiri decree.
- Implemented the management plans of some of the wetlands in the UAE as well as developed new plans for other sites
- Take action to restore some wetlands such as wadi Wurayah

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge

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

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Priority

B=Medium

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Resourcing

A=Good

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - National Targets

> TARGET 2.2. By 2021, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of communities related to sustainable use of biodiversity are respected, and taken into consideration when developing national and local legislation and policies.

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Planned activity

1. Inventory practices and traditional knowledge, innovations related to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the country.
2. Review national policies and legislation and ensure respect for the practices and traditional knowledge, innovations related to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
3. Encourage local community involvement and partnerships in programmes and participation in projects to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Outcomes achieved by 2018

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

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

> When the UAE develops any policies, action plans and legislation, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of communities related to sustainable use of biodiversity (wetlands and other ecosystems and ecosystem services) are respected, and taken into consideration when developing national and local legislation and policies.

Target 11: Wetland functions

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

Target 11: Wetland functions - Priority

A=High

Target 11: Wetland functions - National Targets

- > • TARGET 10. By 2021, the rate of loss of natural habitats, including critical habitats, is reduced by 25%.
- TARGET 11. By 2021, at least 50% of degraded habitats are undergoing restoration to help mitigate against the impacts of climate change and combating desertification.
- TARGET 12. By 2021, at least 90% of restoration plans of degraded ecosystems that provide essential services have been implemented.
- TARGET 13. By 2021, important genetic resources are conserved and protected in the UAE.
- TARGET 14. By 2021, at least 70% of important and vulnerable living marine resources are managed sustainably.
- TARGET 15. By 2021, 50% of government-owned and of non-government-owned areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably to ensure the conservation of biodiversity.
- TARGET 16. By 2021, all land- and water-based pollution has been brought to levels not detrimental to sensitive ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Target 11: Wetland functions - Planned activity

- > • Develop effective methods of ecosystem classification and mapping biodiversity and for identifying and monitoring key biodiversity issues and threats.
- Develop and implement rapid survey techniques that identify and assess the threats to key ecosystems.
- Develop a comprehensive government policy objectives for biodiversity management, considering all stakeholder and public interests.
- Expand programmes to mitigate the adverse effects of land use on biodiversity, and incorporate biodiversity priorities into programmes for sustainable land use, and related strategies
- Develop and implement nationally based rehabilitation strategies identifying priority areas for restoring biodiversity and develop opportunities for collaboration both within and between emirates.
- Promote and support individual and community initiatives to protect, maintain and restore habitats and ecosystems that are important for marine biodiversity.
- Inventory and identify degraded ecosystems, which started implementing rehabilitation plans and review these plans to include new areas.
- Develop a collaborative action plan to manage genetic resources (from both introduced and native species), focusing on effective cooperation between federal government, local authorities, scientific research institutions and sharing information about collections of genetic resources.
- Develop policies on access to, and the use of, UAE's native genetic resources and the sharing of benefits from their use, taking into account citizen's interest in these resources and providing as much certainty as possible for all parties.
- Identify significant areas of risk in managing genetic resources of UAE's native species that are threatened or in decline (with reference to threatened species recovery programmes), and recommend how these risks can be reduced
- Review of the coastal policies and management plans, assess its effectiveness in protecting marine biodiversity, and implement changes accordingly.
- Clarify and identify concerned parties accountabilities for monitoring and reporting on biodiversity and develop and agree with partners on a national pollution standards that will brought to levels not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- Identify the coastal and marine species and habitats that most sensitive to harvesting and other disturbances and put in place measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects from commercial, recreational and customary fishing activities.
- Improve the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of fishing and other marine and coastal resource use, and integrate these EIAs into fisheries decision making processes (including sustainability measures and fisheries plans) and other marine management resources processes

Target 11: Wetland functions - Outcomes achieved by 2018

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

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

- > - Increase public awareness on wetland functions and benefits
- Increase public participation on project related wetlands such as blue carbon

Target 12: Restoration

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

Target 12: Restoration - Priority

C=Low

Target 12: Restoration - Resourcing

E=No answer

Target 12: Restoration - National Targets

- > • TARGET 3.5. By 2021, at least 50% of degraded habitats are undergoing restoration to help mitigate against the impacts of climate change and combating desertification
- TARGET 3.6. By 2021, at least 90% of restoration plans of degraded ecosystems that provide essential services have been implemented

Target 12: Restoration - Planned activity

- > 1. Develop and implement nationally based rehabilitation strategies identifying priority areas for restoring biodiversity and develop opportunities for collaboration both within and between emirates.
- 2. Promote and support individual and community initiatives to protect, maintain and restore habitats and ecosystems that are important for marine biodiversity.
- 3. Inventory and identify degraded ecosystems, which started implementing rehabilitation plans and review these plans to include new areas.
- 4. Develop plans to maintain or restore the biodiversity of priority sites in the country.
- 5. Expand habitat and ecosystem rehabilitation programmes and initiatives (including those on offshore islands, "mainland islands", and other sites within production lands and urban areas) to restore scarce or under-represented habitats and ecosystems to a healthy functioning state.
- 6. Promote the use of local native species for rehabilitation projects and programmes.
- 7. Investigate ways to increase the biological productivity and function of ecosystem services and the establishment of a system for sustainable use of biological resources.

Target 12: Restoration - Outcomes achieved by 2018

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

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

- > • The UAE works to implement the effectiveness management plans of site. Some of these plans include restoration of the area such as the work that is currently being taken in Wadi Wurayah which to restore the site to better conserve the biodiversity within the site. The UAE had request for a Ramsar Advisory Mission for the area of Ras Al Khor to aid in identifying the threats and the ways that the site may better be maintained in order to main and improve the biodiversity within the area.

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability

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

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Priority

A=High

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Resourcing

A=Good

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - National Targets

> Limit the environmental impact of all sectors adjacent or within the limits of the proclaimed Ramsar sites.

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Planned activity

> Ongoing stakeholder engagement and maintaining communication structures between developers and competent authorities

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Outcomes achieved by 2018

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

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

> Implementation of the UAE Green Agenda 2030 through the establishment of actions according to the five strategic objectives which include:

- Knowledge-based economic diversification,

o Action: Financing schemes for green industries, Social development and quality of life

o Action: program on sustainable buildings and construction

- Sustainable environment and valued natural resources

o Action: National Blue Carbon project

- Clean energy and climate action

o Action: Integrated energy and water management strategy

- Green life and sustainable use of resources

o Action: Supporting establishment of waste to energy plants

Goal 4

Target 15: Regional Initiatives

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

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Priority

B=Medium

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Resourcing

E=No answer

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Outcomes achieved by 2018

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

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

> The UAE has also held a number of workshops at a regional level that aid in capacity building and sharing best practices in the region, for example:

- Management Effectiveness evaluation workshop was held to aid parties from the region in better managing their sites and in adopting the METT.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Wetlands, UAE Regional Workshop 5-9th November 2017. The workshop will contribute to the capacity building on the national level and regionally. Demonstrating the best practices in this field and in collaboration with Tour du Valat Biological Station and Satellite-Wetland Observation Service SWOES

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use

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

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Priority

B=Medium

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Resourcing

B=Adequate

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - National Targets

> By 2021, implement awareness programmes that target all UAE residents, resulted in at least 75% of UAE citizens being aware of biodiversity values, its protection, and sustainable use

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Planned activity

> UAE Awareness and Education Programs on Biodiversity

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment has developed a National Strategy for Awareness and Education 2015-2021 based on international standard, guidelines and best practices, as a unified road map. The strategy aims combine and integrate all environmental efforts, programs and strategies in the UAE by focusing on six key objectives:

- Educate youth to drive the UAE towards a sustainable future
- Improve community's commitment to sustainability and environmental protection
- Encourage the active involvement of businesses & industries in moving towards environmental sustainability
- Engage key government stakeholders to support environmental sustainability
- Ensure alignment & effectiveness of environmental education and awareness efforts in the UAE
- Build adequate capabilities in the UAE to enable delivery of NEEAS

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

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

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

> • The first key objective is to Educate youth to drive the UAE towards a sustainable future, through a number of initiatives that focuses integrating environmental education in schools, universities and vocational institutes. The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment is currently working with Ministry of Education (MoE) on an initiative called "our generation" to jointly develop school curriculums that focuses on environmental priorities which include topics like biodiversity, Wetland importance. Another Initiative launched is Sustainable School Initiative which is 'whole school initiative', addressing students, parents, teachers, administrative, non-teaching staff and linking them with Emirate's community and environment. The mentioned initiatives aim to condition the young generation to factor all environmental considerations (including biodiversity and nature conservation) in all their behaviors and actions and ultimately in their decision making when they grow up.

• The Second Key objective in the Strategy is to Improve community's involvement and commitment to sustainability and environmental protection by building partnerships with environmental groups and engaging sustainability ambassadors. The objective aims to develop targeted outreach campaigns raising community awareness on biodiversity and protected areas, promote community involvement in protected areas, zoos and aquaria.

• In 2017 Ministry of Climate Change and Environment has celebrated a number of environmental international and regional occasions which focus on biodiversity such "World Day to Combat Desertification" "World Wetlands Day", "World Wildlife Day" "International Day for Biological Diversity"

Target 18: International cooperation

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

Target 18: International cooperation - Priority

A=High

Target 18: International cooperation - Resourcing

B=Adequate

Target 18: International cooperation - Planned activity

> Hosting Ramsar COP13 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates UAE

Target 18: International cooperation - Outcomes achieved by 2018

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

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

> The UAE will be hosting the upcoming Ramsar CoP 13 in Dubai and will also be developing draft resolution that will support both the needs of the wetlands and parties alike. The UAE has also held a number of workshops at a regional level that aid in capacity building and sharing best practices in the region, for example:

- Management Effectiveness evaluation workshop was held to aid parties from the region in better managing their sites and in adopting the METT.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Wetlands, UAE Regional Workshop 5-9th November 2017. The workshop will contribute to the capacity building on the national level and regionally. Demonstrating the best practices in this field and in collaboration with Tour du Valat Biological Station and Satellite-Wetland Observation Service SWOES.

Target 19: Capacity Building

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

Target 19: Capacity Building - Priority

A=High

Target 19: Capacity Building - Resourcing

B=Adequate

Target 19: Capacity Building - National Targets

> Strengthening the knowledge base and building the capacity for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity

Target 19: Capacity Building - Planned activity

- > • Monitoring and Evaluation of Wetlands, UAE Regional Workshop 5-9th November 2017.
- Monitoring Plan Guideline for three wetlands in Dubai

Target 19: Capacity Building - Outcomes achieved by 2018

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

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

> The workshop will contribute to the capacity building on the national level and regionally. Demonstrating the best practices in this field and in collaboration with Tour du Valat Biological Station and Satellite-Wetland Observation Service SWOES.

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

Guidance for filling in this section

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

A final column of this Annex is provided as a 'free text' box for the inclusion of any additional information concerning the Ramsar Site.

United Arab Emirates

Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (2142)

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

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

C=Partially

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

Mangrove and Alhafeya Protected Area in Khor Kalba (2125)

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

D=Planned

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

A=Yes

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

D=Planned

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

C=Partially

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

C=Partially

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary (1715)

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

D=Planned

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

A=Yes

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

D=Planned

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

C=Partially

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

C=Partially

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

Sir Bu Nair Island Protected Area (2191)

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

D=Planned

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

A=Yes

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

D=Planned

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

C=Partially

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

C=Partially

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

Wadi Wurayah National Park (1932)

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

D=Planned

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

A=Yes

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

D=Planned

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

C=Partially

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

Al-Zora Protected Area (2309)

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

D=Planned

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

A=Yes

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

D=Planned

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

C=Partially

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

C=Partially

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

Bul Syayeeef (2293)

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

D=Planned

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes

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

C=Partially

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

C=Partially

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

A=Yes

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

A=Yes