



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

**National Reports to be submitted to the 14th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Wuhan, China, 2021**

The purpose of this Microsoft Word form is to help Contracting Parties to collect data for the National Report. However, the data collected through this form must be transferred to the online national reporting system at <https://reports.ramsar.org>, or the Word form must be sent by email to nationalreports@ramsar.org, by 21 January 2021 for the official submission of the National Report. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (nationalreports@ramsar.org).

Please note that for Contracting Parties wishing to provide information in the online reporting system on national targets (optional Section 4 of the National Report Format or on the Word form), the deadline is 24 January 2020.

Ramsar COP14 National Report Format (NRF)

Background information

1. The COP14 National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting (SC57) for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention.
2. The NRF is being issued by the Secretariat in 2019 to facilitate Contracting Parties' implementation planning and preparations for completing the Report. The deadline for submission of national targets is 24 January 2020 and the deadline for submission of completed National Reports is 21 January 2021 (final dates will be updated once the dates for COP14 are agreed).
3. This COP14 NRF closely follows that used for COP13, to permit continuity of reporting and analysis of implementation progress by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP13 NRF). It is also structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2016-2024 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP12 through Resolution XII.2.
4. This COP14 NRF includes 90 indicator questions. In addition, Section 4 is provided as an optional annex in order to facilitate the task of preparing the Party's national targets and actions for the implementation of each of the Targets of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 in accordance with Resolution XII.2.
5. As was the case for previous NRFs, the COP14 NRF includes an optional section (Section 5) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information on indicators relevant to each individual Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site) within its territory.
6. Note that, for the purposes of this national reporting to the Ramsar Convention, the scope of the term "wetland" is that of the Convention text, i.e. all inland wetlands (including lakes and rivers), all nearshore coastal wetlands (including tidal marshes, mangroves and coral reefs) and human-made wetlands (e.g. rice paddy and reservoirs), even if a national definition of "wetland" may differ from that adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

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

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention and are made publicly available on the Convention's website.
8. There are seven main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are:
 - i) to provide data and information on how, and to what extent, the Convention is being implemented;
 - ii) to provide tools for countries for their national planning;
 - iii) to capture lessons and experience to help Parties plan future action;
 - iv) to identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
 - v) to provide a means for Parties to account for their commitments under the Convention;

- vi) to provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementing the Convention, and to plan its future priorities; and
 - vii) to provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention".
10. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, the Ramsar Secretariat holds in a database all the information it has received and verified. As for COP13, the COP14 reports will be in an online national reporting system.
11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
- i) providing an opportunity to compile and analyze information that contracting parties can use to inform their national planning and programming;
 - ii) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global, national and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the COP as a series of Information Papers, including:
 - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level; and
 - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance);
 - iii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP;
 - iv) providing the source data for time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (4th edition, 2010); and
 - v) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP used the COP10 NRF indicators extensively in 2009 to prepare contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems for consideration by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3). Similar use of COP13 NRF indicators is anticipated for the CBD's post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The structure of the COP14 National Report Format

12. The COP14 National Report Format (NRF) is in five sections:

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

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

Section 3 provides the 90 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation Goals and Targets in the Strategic Plan 2016-2024, and with an optional ‘free-text’ section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity.

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

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

The planning of national targets offers, for each of them, the possibility of indicating the *national priority* for that area of activity as well as the *level of resourcing available, or that could be made available during the triennium, for its implementation*. In addition, there are specific boxes to indicate the *National Targets* for implementation by 2021 and the *planned national activities* that are designed to deliver these targets.

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

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

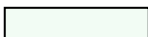
General guidance for completing and submitting the COP14 National Report Format

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

13. All Sections of the COP14 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention’s official languages (English, French, Spanish).
14. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is January 21st 2021. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP14.

15. The deadline for submission of national targets is by 24 January 2020.

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

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

17. To help Contracting Parties refer to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP13, for each appropriate indicator a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP13 NRF or previous NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}

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

19. Only Strategic Plan 2016-2024 Targets for which there are implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format. Those targets of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted in the National Report Format as the information is provided through the Ramsar Sites Data Base or the Work Plan of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (e.g. targets 6 and 14).

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

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

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

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	<i>[Example text]</i> To have comprehensive inventory of all wetlands by 2021	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	<i>[Example text]</i> To update the existing inventory so as to cover all the national territory, and to incorporate relevant information about wetlands, including digital information, when possible	

Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021	<i>[Example text] A comprehensive inventory of all wetlands</i>
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The input has to be made only in the yellow boxes. For **PRIORITY** and **RESOURCING**, the coded answers are given in the right part of the table (always in *italics*). The answer chosen should be typed inside the yellow box at the left side of the coded options. **TARGETS** and **PLANNED ACTIVITIES** are text boxes; here, Contracting Parties are invited to provide more detailed information in the respective box on their National Targets for achievement in implementation by 2021 and the planned national activities that are designed to deliver these targets.

Please note that only ONE coded option –the one that better represents the situation in the Contracting Party– should be chosen. Blanks will be coded in COP14 National Reports Database as “No answer”.

22. The NRF should ideally be completed by the principal compiler in consultation with relevant colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP13 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided. In the online system there is an option to allow consultation with others.
23. After each session, **remember to save the file**. A recommended filename structure is: COP14NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP14NRFSpain13January 2021.doc
24. After the NRF has been completed using the word version (offline), please enter the data in the NR online system at this link: <https://reports.ramsar.org> or send it by email (nationalreports@ramsar.org) by January 21st 2021. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice at (nationalreports@ramsar.org).
25. The completed NRF **must be accompanied by a letter that can be uploaded in the online system or send by email (nationalreports@ramsar.org) in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP14 National Report.**

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

National Report to Ramsar COP14

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 <https://www.ramsar.org/search?f%5B0%5D=type%3Aperson#search-contacts>.

Name of Contracting Party: **THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority:	RAMSAR Administrative Authority, P. R. China (Department of Wetland Management, National Forestry and Grassland Administration, P. R. China)
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr. Wu Zhimin (Director General)
Mailing address:	RAMSAR Administrative Authority, P. R. China No. 18 Hepingli East Street, Beijing, China 100714
Telephone/Fax:	+86-10-84239334/+86-10-84238426
Email:	893803700@qq.com,35178759@qq.com

Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title:	Mr. Wu Zhimin (Director General)
Mailing address:	RAMSAR Administrative Authority, P. R. China No. 18 Hepingli East Street, Beijing, China 100714
Telephone/Fax:	+86-10-84239334/+86-10-84238426
Email:	893803700@qq.com

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

Name and title:	Mr. Bao Daming (Deputy Director General)
Name of organisation:	RAMSAR Administrative Authority, P. R. China
Mailing address:	RAMSAR Administrative Authority, P. R. China No. 18 Hepingli East Street, Beijing, China 100714
Telephone/Fax:	+86-10-84239335/+86-10-84238426
Email:	710924588@qq.com

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

Name and title:	Ms. HU Xinxin (Deputy Division Chief)
Name of organisation:	RAMSAR Administrative Authority, P. R. China
Mailing address:	RAMSAR Administrative Authority, P. R. China No. 18 Hepingli East Street, Beijing, China 100714
Telephone/Fax:	+86-10-84239334/+86-10-84238426
Email:	35178759@qq.com

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

Name and title:	Mr. Zhang Yimo
Name of organisation:	World Wide Fund for Nature (Switzerland) Beijing Representative

	Office
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Telephone/Fax:	+86-15601821022
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Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP13 reporting):

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

1) Breakthrough changes to institutional arrangements for wetland conservation and management

1a) Completed governance reform of the organizational structure of wetland management: China unveiled a state-level institutional reform of government structure in 2018. In order to tackle the issues, particularly those related to the fragmented roles and overlapped responsibilities in terms of regulatory and planning mandates over natural resources, this reform effort has brought about the creation of a new ministry—the Ministry of Natural Resources (referred to hereinafter as “MNR”). The MNR absorbed functions originally under multiple former ministries and administrations of the Central Government, which were: i) the responsibility for developing main functional zoning plans; ii) the authority over urban and rural planning; iii) the responsibilities for inventory, survey and registering of water, grassland, forestland and wetland resources; and iv) all of the responsibilities under the mandates of two former administrations—the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) and the National Surveying and Mapping Bureau (NSMB). Acting as one greater governmental institution to own and manage all state-owned natural resource assets, the new ministry was tasked with holistically controlling land and water use, as well as protecting and restoring ecological ecosystems.

The MNR was also authorized to oversee the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (referred to hereafter as “NFGA”), a new government body emerged from the merging of the former State Forestry Administration (SFA) and sub-units of multiple government bodies. NFGA took on the responsibilities of stewarding a variety of protected areas, including nature reserves, scenic areas, world natural heritage sites, and geo-parks, previously under the mandates of the former Ministry of Agriculture, SFA, SOA and etc. The establishment of NFGA was to secure ecological safety not only by boosting conservation efforts to protect and manage forest, grassland and wetland ecosystems, but also by speeding up the establishment of a natural protected area system with national parks at the core. NFGA also functions as China’s National Park Administration.

The Ministry of Ecology and Environment (referred to hereafter as “MEE”) was established in the institutional reform. Specific functions and responsibilities shifted and integrated into MEE included: i) response to climate change and carbon emissions reduction; ii) oversight and prevention of groundwater pollution; iii) development of water functional zoning plans; iv) management of site locations of wastewater discharge outlets; v) watershed-based water management; vi) non-point source pollution control; vii) coastal and marine environment protection; and viii) environmental protection falling within the boundaries of the South-North Water Diversion Project.

As far as wetland protection and management is concerned, the primary functions of the three newly restructured organizations are specifically as follows: i) The **Ministry of Natural Resources** is primarily responsible for the inventory, registration, monitoring and assessment of wetland resources and for their compensable uses, rational use and exploitation, spatial use planning and ecological restoration. ii) The **National Forestry and Grassland Administration** is principally responsible for overseeing and managing wetland resources (wetland conservation and restoration included); developing wetland conservation plans and relevant national technical specifications; overseeing and stewarding wetland use and exploitation activities and administering and overseeing all categories of wetland protected areas. iii) The **Ministry of Ecology and Environment** is mainly focusing on establishing and perfecting a fundamental regime for ecology and environment governance, such as developing and overseeing the implementation of ecological and environmental protection plans and water function zoning plans concerning sea areas, watersheds and headwater streams for surface drinking water. Other key elements of its responsibilities consist of oversight and

supervision of environmental pollution prevention and control, conducting inspections on wetland protection performance and being engaged in ecological compensation related work.

Another two new government bodies—the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT), also play certain roles in wetland conservation and management.

In response to this institutional reform, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration replaced the previous Wetland Conservation and Management Office, a public sector unit, with a new government branch of the Department of Wetland Management. The new department has consolidated responsibilities for wetland conservation and management. Serving as the Ramsar Administrative Authority of the People's Republic of China, the Department of Wetland Management has retained its liaison role in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in China. The provincial equivalents followed suit of NFGA, by setting up new (sub-)branches specialized in wetland management. The local efforts helped put in place a solid institutional framework of wetland management at the base.

1b) Steady and persistent progress in wetland legislation: In 2018, the *Wetland Conservation Law* was formally included into the national legislative plan with the efforts made by the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA). In July 2019, a propositional version of the *Wetland Conservation Law* was completed and a draft version was consequently prepared by the national legislation authority in 2020. Apart from issuing the *Notice on Strengthening the Oversight of Wetland Management*, NFGA also made revisions to a series of wetland management rules including *Wetland Conservation and Management Rules* and consolidated over 50 technical standards. Provincial governments also made inspiring progress in pushing forward legislation on wetland conservation, resulting in the enactment of 28 provincial wetland regulations or directives throughout the country.

1c) A comprehensive policy package for wetland conservation and restoration: In November 2016, the State Council released China's wetland management policy—the *Wetland Conservation and Restoration Scheme*. The policy outlined the overall goal, implementation strategies and supporting policies to be put in place for wetland management. Later on, the central government rolled out a stream of fourteen enabling policies for the full and complete implementation of the *Scheme*. All provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities also gave their prompt and positive responses with the releases of their provincial implementation plans. At the moment, there is a collection of 83 provincial supporting policies in place. Thanks to those efforts, China has, over the past four years, made a brilliant achievement in wetland conservation and restoration. The country saw its wetlands expanded by 3 million *mu* in area (about 200,000 hectares). The wetlands under legal protection increased to a record high of over 50%. On 14 August, 2020, the MNR and NFGA jointly released the *Special Action Plan on Mangrove Conservation and Restoration (Year 2020-2025)*. Targeting the current status of relatively low area of mangroves and degradation of mangrove habitats, this *Plan* aims to plant 9,050 hectare of mangroves and restore existing degraded 9,750 hectare of mangroves by 2025.

2) Steady progress made in mainstreaming wetland conservation into national policy and planning

2a) Wetland recognized as a type of land cover: China started its third national statistical survey of land use in 2017 in an effort to collect basic information on status, tenures and bio-physical conditions of land of all types. This survey is the first time that wetland was treated as a new type of land cover. It indicates that wetland is at the same hierarchy class as forestland and agricultural lands. The type of wetland land cover was further classified into eight subcategories: mangrove, forested wetlands, shrub swamp, peatlands, salt marsh, coastal wetlands, riverine or lacustrine wetlands, and marshes. The survey will make it a reality for each piece of wetlands in China to be delineated and mapped, allowing wetland to be seriously considered in future land and water use and their spatial planning. The officially announced total number of wetland hectares from this survey will be used as a national baseline for reference when setting an overall national goal and sub-targets for each region's wetland conservation. Such information will be useful to the development of appropriate and feasible policies for wetland use control, making it possible "that all important wetlands shall not be expropriated or encroached for no purpose other than those agreed in national major strategic projects to see that there is no loss to the country's wetlands, neither in size nor in ecological functions".

The Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Water Resources and the National Forestry and Grassland Administration released on July 23rd, 2019 a joint directive entitled *the Provisional Measures for the Unified Confirmation and Registration of Natural Resources*. The guidance was created to introduce a clear property rights system of natural resource assets by introducing a unified registration system. The introduction of the new registration system was expected to enable the identification and classification of all types of natural resources properties, confirming their geographical locations and legitimate owners. It allows each and every property, either state- or community-owned, to be in detail and clearly documented in terms of their specific real owner(s), designated representative(s) and/or actual user(s). A natural resource assets fact sheet should cover the following information: a) Description of natural resources: the location in geographical coordinates, geographical distribution, coverage area, type(s), abundance and grades of natural resources; and b) Property ownership: legitimated owner(s), designated representative(s) of owner(s), types of property ownership and corresponding right(s) .

The Practical Guidelines on Confirming and Registering Natural Resources (Tentative), released in February 2020 by the Ministry of Natural Resources, further defined a priority hierarchy of registration units of natural resources that ranks, in a descending order, as follows: marine areas and uninhabited islands; natural protected areas and key state-owned forest areas designated by the State Council; single natural resources, either water regimes, wetland, forestland, or grassland; and indicated or measured mineral deposits. It is stipulated that all of the natural resources included in a higher level of registration unit should not be considered as an individual registration unit, and their information should be recorded in the column of remarks. The *Guidelines* also included an article provisioning that tidal areas should be identified as a natural resource unit of wetland. The specific provision highlighted that tidal areas, either coastal, lacustrine, or riverine, should be managed as a type of wetlands. All provincial regions of China have, since 2020, unveiled their provincial work plans to kick off the work of classifying, confirming and registering natural resources and their ownerships, heralding the start of this effort across the entire country.

In January 2020, the Ministry of Natural Resources released *the Master Plan for Establishing a Surveying and Monitoring System for Natural Resources*. It marked that a three-in-one system for natural resources management took shape that was composed of three modules—inventory, registration and monitoring of natural resources. This system can create a national baseline map for natural resources monitoring through extracting the fresh data from the latest nationwide survey of land use with a pool of available data of natural resources ranging from forest and wetland to water

and grassland. Such an information-rich map with multiple layers of data can provide government agencies with consistent data, allowing them to identify and fill in, through conducting nationwide special surveys and regular, thematic or contingent monitoring projects, information gaps necessary for a sounder management of natural resources. As far as wetland resources survey is concerned, this *Master Plan* proposed that the Ministry of Natural Resources take a leading role in identifying the size and spatial location of wetlands and that the National Forestry and Grassland Administration be, in partnership with other relevant government agencies, responsible for the tasks involving the survey of biodiversity, ecological conditions, water quality and eutrophic state in a wetland.

2b) The coverage rate of existing wetlands evolved as an indicator of governance performance in the *Green Growth Indicator Framework*, signaling that the performance in wetland management is a recognized indicator for green GDP accounting. This move can encourage the governments at all levels to value the ecological, economic and social importance of wetlands and steer them take wetland conservation seriously. In February 2020, the indicator of wetland protection rate further became one of the key performance indicators listed in the *Beautiful China Initiative Evaluation Indicators and Their Application*.

In November 2019, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) launched the scheme of Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation. In the same year, NFGA also made revisions to the *Tentative Measures for Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation* and to relevant eligibility indicators, further refining application requirements concerning the types of candidate cities, their associated wetland types and coverage rate.

In April 2019, China announced the *Guiding Opinions on Holistically Promoting the Reform of the System of Property Rights to Natural Assets*. The directive stressed the importance of a holistic conservation of natural resources and encouraged to push forward practices of ecological restoration and of proper eco-compensation.

The Ministry of Natural Resources released the *Guideline for Development of Citywide Land Use Master Plans* on September 25th, 2020. This *Guideline* provides guidance in delineating the extent of wetland for conservation and developing environmentally responsible water allocation plans toward building water-saving cities. It made two planning indicators—the accumulative acreage of wetlands and the total amount of water consumed by a city—compulsory for land use planning.

2c) Leveraged national strategic initiatives for broader cross-sector and trans-boundary cooperation in wetland conservation: When drafting and implementing a collection of strategic economic development plans for different regions, including the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region, the Yangtze River Economic Belt, and the rural areas for economic revitalization, relevant central government agencies attached a very great importance to wetland conservation and restoration and collaboratively made it an integral part of those plans.

To keep wetland conservation and sustainable use mainstreamed in the Yangtze River region's development agenda, a special research on wetland conservation was conducted before a spatial planning for the Yangtze River Economic Belt was developed. In addition, a series of laws and policies have been issued, including the *Yangtze River Protection Law*, the *Ecological Protection and Restoration Plan for the Yangtze River Economic Belt*, the *Scheme for Returning Agricultural Land to Wetland in the Yangtze River Economic Belt*, and the *Action Plan for the Uphill Battles for the Conservation and Protection of the Yangtze River*.

The Ministry of Water Resources and the National Forestry and Grassland Administration also conducted a joint survey on the removal of low earth dams in the region of the Xiasai Lake connected to the Dongting Lake, a collaborative effort to push forward ecological restoration in the Dongting Lake area.

In 2018, the State Council issued the *Notice on Intensifying Coastal Wetland Protection and Land Reclamation Management*, a new policy with 'teeth'. NFGA also took a leading role in the

development of the *Yellow River Watershed Wetland Conservation and Restoration Implementation Plan*, which outlined a holistic and integrated plan for nine provincial regions' wetland conservation and restoration efforts. In conjunction with the Third National Land Use Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources, NFGA also reviewed and verified the accuracy of the existing statistical data on mangrove wetlands from the third national land use survey and worked out how to map out the area extent of mangrove wetlands. Such collaboration will help develop feasible plans for nationwide efforts to conserve and restore mangrove ecosystems, endowing coastal cities with luxuriant mangrove swamps serving as protective barrier to global warming.

In June 2020, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources released the *Master Plan for the Major Programme of Protecting and Restoring Ecosystems of National Importance (2021-2035)*. Wetland conservation and restoration was one of the priority areas identified in the master plan.

2d) Revitalizing rural areas through the conservation and restoration of small and micro wetlands: In rural regions, the ecological, cultural and economic values of micro and small wetlands have been further recognized, valued and used in a way that contributes to wetland conservation and wise use. Vivid practices are everywhere. Some rural communities set aside wetland micro reserves or parks to purify domestic wastewater, so as to improve water quality and surrounding landscape; some rural villages restored their creeks, streams, and wetlands as wild as they should be, maintaining a healthy ecological environment and securing the safety of their drinking water; some rural areas boosted their economy by embracing ecologically sustainable income-generating activities dependent on wetland resources. In 2017, the registered poor people in the poverty-stricken counties and key ecological functional areas were for the first time entitled to be recruited as wetland rangers. This created an opportunity for them to increase their incomes through engaging in wetland conservation.

3) Unveiled a new era for full and complete conservation of wetland resources

3a) The wetland protected area system is continuously improving and developing: By the end of 2020, China has established a wetland protected area system consisting of 64 Ramsar sites, 29 wetland sites of national importance, 602 wetland nature reserves at various levels, 899 national wetland parks, 811 wetland sites of provincial importance and a large number of wetland micro-reserves. The National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) issued the *Regulations on Accreditation and Designation of Wetland Sites of National Importance*, aiming to institutionalize a hierarchy framework of wetland management. NFGA is also going to explore the establishment of an oversight system for wetland use and for the management of national wetland parks. It is hoped that such a system can help regulate not only the designation of national wetland parks, but also the adjustment of their boundaries and functional zones, further contributing to better management of this category of wetland protected areas.

The fact that wetland is considered as a component of land resources will help consolidate and improve China's wetland protected area network. The *Outline of National Land Use Spatial Planning (2020-2035)* called for inclusion of key wetlands in China's ecological redlines for a holistic use of wetland resources that equally considers wetland conservation. The policy made it a mandate for local authorities to fully and concurrently consider, when doing planning, multi-source influencing factors, such as socio-economic development levels, the extent of resource-saving and intensive use, ecological needs of wetland ecosystems, objectives for the establishment of a natural protected area system, and the upper and lower limits to the extraction and consumption of natural resources.

3b) Great achievement made in wetland conservation and restoration: China has, since 2016, seen an increase of 200,000 hectares in the area of wetlands. This brought the wetland sites under legal protection accounting for over 50 per cent of China's wetland coverage. The Wetland Subsidy, Conservation and Restoration Programme resulted in the restoration of 1.37 million *mu* (or 91,333

hectares) of ecological degraded wetland scattered in 25 provincial-level regions. The Blue Bays Programme, launched in 2016, has funded the ecological restoration of a collective amount of 54,000 *mu* (or 3,600 hectares) of coastal wetlands. Since 2016, the Ministries of Finance, Natural Resources, and Ecology and Environment have allocated funds to the Mountain-Water-Forest-Farmland-Lake-Grassland Ecological Restoration Programme in an attempt to restore ecological health to the land in 25 key ecological function areas across the country.

To maintain the above-mentioned achievements, China has also been keeping on ameliorating existing management mechanisms for securing environmental flows in the wetland ecosystems. For example, the Ramsar sites of the Baiyangdian Lake in Hebei Province, the Wuliangsu Lake in Inner Mongolia and Xianghai and Momoge in Jilin Province received imported water diverted from other water resources. The effects of this practice were surprisingly astonishing. The population of whooper swans (*Cygnus cygnus*) at the Ramsar site of Xianghai climbed back to more than 1,000 individuals from zero. Similarly, the Ramsar site of Momoge saw the population of Siberian crane (*Grus leucogeranus*) grow back to over 30,000 individuals from its previous high record of 500 individuals.

China has also achieved a higher level of conservation of freshwater species in key watersheds. Effective since January 1st, 2020, the policy of a complete ban against fishing has been applied to a total of 332 aquatic protected areas along the Yangtze River watershed in an effort to conserve and restore freshwater biodiversity. This move was a response to the announcements of the *Opinions on Strengthening Protection of Freshwater Wildlife in the Yangtze River* by the State Council and the *Implementation Plan for Fishing Bans through Establishing Subsidy Arrangements in Key Reaches of the Yangtze River* by the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Finance, and Human Resources and Social Security. A year-round ban, starting from January 1st, 2021 for a period of ten years, is set to extend to the whole length of the main stream and key tributaries of the Yangtze River and its two large connecting lakes—Poyang and Dongting. By then, the majority of the wetlands (of which four are Ramsar sites) in the Yangtze River watershed will be closed to fishing. The four non-fishing Ramsar sites are the Yangtze River Estuary Chinese Sturge Wetland Reserve in Shanghai, the Poyang Lake Natural Reserve in Jiangxi, the South Dongting Lake Nature Reserve in Hunan, and the Hong Lake Nature Reserve in Hubei. This will help conserve and restore aquatic wildlife in these wetland areas.

In addition, special efforts were also made to save endangered animals endemic to the watershed, such as the Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*), Yangtze finless porpoise (*Neophocaena asiaeorientalis*), Dabry's sturgeon (*Acipenser dabryan*), and Asian giant soft-shell turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*). Basic information about these rare species, including their population size, the extent of habitat, the type and extent of injury and mortality, were collected to create a database, which is expected be used to support a wide range of efforts of conservation of these freshwater wildlife, such as field rescue, population recovery and ex-situ conservation. Over the last four years, a total of 500 adult Dabry's sturgeon and over 200,000 young fry of the species were released into the Yangtze River; a sum of 100 Yangtze finless porpoise were protected ex-situ; 20 turtles weighed between 1 and 1.5 kilograms were successfully released to the wild.

3c) Scientific research continuously strengthened to support wetland management: The National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) has, since 2018, issued annual reports on ecological conditions of China's Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites). The white paper updated the latest monitoring and evaluation results on ecological conditions of all the Ramsar sites in China. Given the fact that different types of wetland demand unique management efforts, NFGA also carried out a series of research and investigations to collect data for future wetland conservation in the era of big data. These efforts included: i) Organized and conducted a special survey on China's mangrove resources and on the identification of potential priority sites suitable for mangrove restoration. This survey will help electronically map out all delineated mangrove patches. ii) Entered a collaborative partnership with the China Geological Survey (CGS) on peatland survey, expanding

the effort to cover Qinghai and Sichuan provinces; iii) Made a steady advance in piloting the classification and registration of wetland resource properties; and iv) Established, in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a national center for wetland research, which will serve as a technical platform for science-based wetland management and conservation.

3d) Wetland conservation networks playing a positive role: Wetland conservation associations, including the Yangtze River Wetland Conservation Network, the Yellow River Wetland Conservation Network and China Coastal Wetland Conservation Network, held regular membership gatherings. At those events, professional keynote speeches were presented, conservation experience shared, and innovative practices promoted. Such invaluable opportunities of interaction and exchange of ideas not only contributed to the improvement of the member organizations' capacities for wetland management and conservation, but also helped increase the public awareness for wetland conservation.

4) Consolidated wetland conservation funding for more efficient management

With the support of the Wetland Conservation and Restoration Funds, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) supported the following efforts conducted in wetland nature reserves and national parks at the provincial level and above: i) To compensate the stakeholders for their direct economic losses resulting from their protection of wetland; ii) To pay any costs associated with any integrated improvement of the surrounding environment of a wetland site; iii) To give subsidies to the households that convert their cultivated lands into original wetland and reimburse any direct expenditures incurred from such kind of land conversion activities; iv) To cover all expenses related to a wide range of activities of restoration of degraded wetlands, including making appropriate alterations or changes to the shape of a landform, restoring hydrological connectivity of a water regime, replanting wetland vegetation, and enhancing wetland habitat; v) To maintain facilities and procure equipment for wetland conservation and management purposes; vi) To pay wages to wetland community rangers; and vii) To pay for wetland environmental promotion activities.

As stated in the latest principles for the division of spending responsibilities between the central and sub-national governments, the central government shall institutionalize a new funding arrangement. The new funding allocation regime is expected to be a combination of fixed grants and performance-based financing. The central government will allocate more funds to wetland sites of international or national importance. It will further fork the regions that place an enormous amount of importance on and excel in the conservation of wetland more conservation funds in award other than in subsidy. Sub-national governments shall otherwise be responsible for funding the conservation of small and medium-sized wetlands within their jurisdiction. A clearer separation of spending responsibilities between governments at all levels will facilitate the establishment of a fast, efficient, reliable funding mechanism for wetland conservation.

Both the central government and sub-national governments launched favorable policies encouraging private investment in wetland management. Private investors are welcome to engage in a wide range of efforts ranging from the establishment of wetland protected areas and wetland restoration to watershed management and setting up constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment. In the *2018 Final List of Public-Private Partnership Pilot Projects* announced by the Ministry of Finance, there were 23 projects related to wetland management and conservation.

5) Engaged more in facilitating international wetland conservation

China is actively engaged in issues related to the Ramsar Convention. In response to the initiative of Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention, China drafted corresponding national screening methods and indicators to promote the effort in China. In 2018, six cities in China were accredited as Wetland Cities at the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP13).

China submitted a draft resolution on conservation and management of small and micro wetlands in 2018. The draft resolution was approved at the COP13. Micro and small wetlands conservation and management was on the listing of the priority thematic work areas for 2019-2021 prepared by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention.

China was officially accepted as the host for the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP14) in 2021. As a member of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar convention, China was elected Chair of the subgroup on COP14.

China also held a series of wetland training sessions for other developing countries. It has engaged in wetland conservation in the Lancang-Mekong Watershed Region. Beyond those efforts, implementing GEF-funded projects has been an ongoing effort of China. All these efforts help China fulfill its international responsibilities and commitments.

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

1) Lack of legislative support at national level

There is still lack of a national wetland conservation law despite the fact that, a large proportion of provinces put in place their local regulations on wetland conservation. The absence of a national legislation is a drag on effective wetland conservation and management. The proposal of enacting “*Wetland Conservation Law*” is on China’s legislative agenda, but it still will need to wait some time before the draft law goes through all necessary legislative processes.

2) Threats to wetlands still exist

The main threats to China’s wetlands are pollution, over-extraction of wetland resources, invasive species, infrastructure development and wetland reclamation. With a higher recognition of the importance of wetland conservation and management among the governments at all levels, China has introduced a series of policies with an aim to mobilize more resources to tackle difficult issues in wetland management, notably water pollution and wetland reclamation. These policies included *the Notice on Intensifying Coastal Wetland Protection and Land Reclamation Management*, *the Wetland Conservation and Restoration Scheme*, and *the Work Plan for Withdrawing Mining Claims in Nature Reserves*.

As shown in the *Annual Report on the Ecological Conditions of China’s Ramsar Sites 2019*, the aforementioned ecological threats were abated only in some limited areas. The report conclusion suggests that the alleviation of wetland threats still needs tremendous and tough efforts. For example, the management of invasive alien species is getting tougher and harder when almost none of the prevention and control efforts has turned out to be useful in halting the expansion of invasive species. In addition, climate change is aggravating water shortage in the downstream areas of dams. At some areas like the Yellow River Delta and the Dalai Lake watershed, using environmental return flows has become a necessary practice to maintain wetland ecological conditions, burdening the wetland management authorities with more additional costs for wetland maintenance.

3) Market-based innovative financing mechanisms are not yet established for wetland conservation given the fact that environmental services buyers are still small

Aside from the popular interprovincial eco-compensation pattern, other eco-compensation incentives are currently being explored that may focus on a wide range of areas, including wastewater treatment, flood prevention and rainwater retention, eco-agriculture, and the mitigation of climate change. When environmental issues attract more global concerns, exploring market-based eco-compensation models will help establish a self-sustained mechanism driven by environmental service trading in itself.

4) Wetland conservation and management demands well-regulated and shareholder-aligned oversight of wetland

There are fundamental differences in the management of wetland and forestland/grassland. Wetland, as a transitional zone between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, depends on their long-term equilibrium. Apart from wetland occupation, other types of activities outlined in *the Wetland Conservation and Restoration Scheme* that occur at a wetland site may still impose negative impacts on other wetlands at a remote area somewhere in the upstream or downstream reaches of the same watershed. There is lack of an effective, clearly defined oversight mechanism to deal with such sort of offsite influences.

5) Management challenges require a more comprehensive management and technical team

Wetland management involves multiple government organs respectively responsible for environmental protection, water resources, agriculture, marine resources and etc., which requires good coordination. The management of wetland has become a priority concern in China. The growing expectations from the public have called on wetland stewards to take on a greater responsibility than ever before. The institutional constraint was eased with the launch of the wide-range institutional restructuring of the government unveiled in 2018. New wetland management authorities of all levels are in place, though they still need time to get well acquainted with their mandates and administrative procedures.

China is still on its way to develop a national competency-based training system for its wetland workforce. There are still a proportion of wetland employees who might be under-qualified to fulfill their designated responsibilities. As far as China's wetland sciences research is concerned, basic researches are more popular than applied ones. One possible consequence is that the real need for good science in wetland protection and restoration cannot be fully addressed. To avoid such inappropriate practices in future, China will make it an objective to improve its wetland management team's capacities, so as to build a comprehensive team with rich practical and theoretical knowledge. It should be a worthy effort for China's pushing forward the work of wetland protection and management.

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

1) To continue to ameliorate the arrangement of wetland protection and management

The first of firsts is to push forward the enactment of *the Wetland Conservation Law*. Next on the list is to continue, in compliance with the newly approved *Yangtze River Protection Law and Regulations on the Management of Aquatic Resources in the Yangtze River*, to ban fishing in the key sections of the Yangtze River watershed. Meanwhile, there are plans to introduce a fishing permit system, as an interim arrangement throughout the fishing ban, before a roadmap for the sustainable use of aquatic resources is designed on the premise of the fishery resources bounce back.

In addition to those priority actions, China will continue to move on with the implementation of its *Wetland Conservation and Restoration Scheme* and make, according to the relevant stipulations that recognize wetlands as a category of land use, necessary and timely adjustments to existing wetland policies and regulations. Linked with this effort, all wetlands data collected from the Third National Land Use Survey will be compiled up to support wetland delineation and mapping out. The data will also be used to set national quantitative goals for wetland conservation and corresponding sub-goals broken down to each province/region, so as to help develop specific policies and regulations on the control of wetland use.

Last but not least, China will establish and perfect an inspection and oversight mechanism specialized for dealing with any activities that may impose damage on wetland resources, so as to firmly combat against illegal uses of wetland resources.

2) To deepen efforts to conserve and restore wetland

China will continue to properly highlight the importance of wetland conservation and restoration. In line with the *Master Plan for Major National Significant Ecosystems Protection and Restoration Programmes (2021-2035)*, relevant government departments will push forward the development of the planned major special programmes. These special programmes are expected to work out specific measures for the implementation of wetland-related tasks. The fundamental principle of ecological integrity that mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes and grassland are ecologically dependent on each other should be fully applied throughout the development of the specific measures. In doing so, it can help protect and restore important wetlands, contributing to a gradual recovery of their ecological integrity and environmental services.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has plans to explore the removal of small hydropower dams. The Ministry will focus on securing an effective operation of the Changyu Yangtze River Freshwater Wildlife Conservation Foundation and on channeling sufficient funds into major conservation and restoration projects confined to the Yangtze River watershed.

The National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) will implement the *14th Five-Year Plan for China's Wetland Conservation* and offer necessary assistance to provinces for their formulation of equivalent provincial plans.

NFGA will expand the scope of wetland subsidy programmes to projects related to wetland conservation and restoration, conversion arable land to wetland, wetland eco-compensations and the construction of small and micro wetlands. In pushing forward wetland restoration, the NFGA will, in full compliance with relevant policies, see to it that any parcel of reclaimed cultivated land is ecologically appropriately converted to its original state of land cover, either forest or wetland.

Continuous efforts will be made to ameliorate wetland eco-compensation mechanisms, securing subsidy funds for the conservation of national wetland parks and wetlands of national importance and for compensating the affected stakeholders for their economic losses caused by such conservation efforts. The eco-compensation mechanisms will be able to allow compensation funds to be used for the purpose of performing routine activities involved in wetland conservation and restoration.

Under this priority area, another exciting activity is to implement a batch of major wetland restoration projects at main regions or watersheds in an integrated approach, including developing and implementing the *Special Action Plan for China's Mangrove Conservation and Restoration*.

The last envisaged activity for NFGA is to do its part in poverty alleviation through continuing implementation of its wetland community ranger programme.

3) To consolidate wetland protected area system through compiling a complete inventory of wetlands of national importance

Under this priority area, there are five priority activities for China to fulfill. The first activity is to proceed with the work of accreditation and demarcation of the wetlands of national importance through updating its national wetland inventory in a periodic manner. The second is to draft measures for the management of China's wetlands of National Importance to regulate their management. The third is to standardize the review process for the designation of wetland parks, so as to improve the management of China's wetland parks with better arrangements of functional zones. The fourth is to monitor ecological conditions in China's Ramsar sites and release the monitoring findings in a report entitled the ecological conditions of Ramsar sites in China. The last is to develop new national technical standards and stipulations for a better technical guidance system on wetland conservation and restoration.

4) To explore ways toward sustainable use of wetland resources

On the premise of putting wetland conservation first, China not only greatly values the diverse ecological services and their monetary values generated by wetlands, but also insightfully encourages the use of wetland resources in a wise-use manner. Wetland parks, which are ready to accommodate any wetland-dependent activities, such as environmental education, ecotourism, eco-farming, can be encouraged to embrace these eco-friendly business practices. Wetland parks will be used to showcase innovative wetland environmental education practices and new environment-wise use practices of wetland resources. They can serve as a platform for the public to understand how wetland conservation and sustainable uses can be smartly balanced, helping pump in more support for wetland conservation. The public, once provided with more and better eco-friendly products from wetland ecosystems, will further help deepen the mainstreaming of wetland issues into China's economic and social development agenda.

5) To build a more capable team and seek deeper international cooperation

China will do its best make the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP14) a success. At the grand gathering, China will introduce to the world its share of wise practices for wetland conservation.

Beyond that, China will, as always, build capacities for implementing the Ramsar Convention. China will ensure a successful implementation of international projects, including the GEF-financed project "Conservation the Wetlands along the Migratory Flyways in China" and "Lancang River-Mekong River Watershed Wetland Cooperation Project". China will continue to provide other developing countries with training, sharing expertise in wetland conservation and restoration.

China will further, among other things related to pushing forward the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, encourage Wetland City Accreditation Initiative, Ramsar site recognition and update, as required, relevant data on Ramsar sites.

At the bottom of the to-do list, China will review and refine criteria for conserving and restoring small and micro wetlands.

- D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning priorities for implementation assistance and requirements for such assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

In an era of global warming, the sustainable use of wetland resources, including the practice of conducting nature-based wetland ecotourism, has come to the limelight with a massive acceptance as an economic option. Given such an overwhelming trend, it is hoped more professionals specialized in social sciences and economic sciences are included in the STRP, so as to broaden the range of technical support. In addition, continued financial and technical assistance is expected to be provided to help contracting parties in such needs of help keep their Ramsar sites from any irreversible ecological degradation.

- 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)

It is expected that IOPs will continue to play an active role in assisting in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention as they ever did before, remarkably promoting international sharing of knowledge and resources and demonstrating cutting-edge conservation concepts and approaches. It will be more ideal for IOPs to channel more financial, technical and intellectual resources from private sector and the public into wetland conservation since they have their unparalleled advantages in these aspects.

- 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)?

Ecological civilization is one of China's national long-term development strategies, promoting the ecological concept that a viable land should consist of mountains, rivers and streams, forestland, lakes and grassland. Bearing this idea in mind, the implementation of the Ramsar Convention is part of the national agenda for wetland management. A crosscutting committee is in place to serve, through holding a number of periodic and ad-hoc meetings, as a coordination platform for all relevant agencies sharing information and making decisions. China also made concerted efforts to fulfill international agreements when their set working objectives were of high relevancy to each other. This is an economical way to implement international treaties. Crosscutting planning and collaborative effort among different government departments has resulted in better implementation of international environmental agreements, among them, the Ramsar Convention, CBD, CITES, WHC, UNCCD, and UNFCCC.

In this way, China succeeded in drawing up major national strategies favorable to the implementation of more than one international convention. A wonderful example was the release of the *Notice on Intensifying Coastal Wetland Protection and Land Reclamation Management*, a multiple-purpose strategy released in 2018. This policy instrument will be likely to help China achieve some goals set forth not only in the Ramsar Convention but also in a bunch of other international agreements including CBD, the World Heritage Convention, and UNFCCC.

The Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) has also implemented CBD in tandem with the Ramsar Convention when it comes to certain set goals concerning species and habitat conservation. Biodiversity in wetlands being an important component of China's biodiversity, the MEE investigated freshwater diversity in key watersheds (e.g. the Rivers of Yangtze and Haihe) and the diversity of waterbirds at key conservation areas along the coastline in conducting a full-scale national survey of biological diversity nationwide. A wide range of key wetland species,

including black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*), Chinese crested tern (*Thalasseus bernsteini*), Siberian crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), red-crowned crane (*G. japonensis*) and relict gull (*Larus relictus*) were covered in the survey.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs also made a similar synergic effort when embracing fishing ban to conserve aquatic wildlife in the Yangtze River through referring to both the CBD and CITES. The effort helped achieve two goals at a time: increase biodiversity and conserve endangered species.

- G. How is the Ramsar Convention 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) and how this could be improved?

China continues to push forward the effort to build an ecological civilization. In *the Outline of China's 13th Fifth Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development*, it is made clear that “to conserve and restore wetlands as well as riverine and lacustrine ecosystems through architecting an arrangement for wetland conservation”. The newly approved *Recommendations for Formulating China's 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development and the 2035 Vision* also underlined that it is essential to improve the health and viability of ecosystems, in particular through strengthening environmental protection of great rivers, lakes and other key wetlands.

Protection of wetland ecosystems has been mainstreamed into the policies of the governments at all levels. As outlined in the additional information for Question 1.1, wetland conservation has, so far, become a decision-making factor for relevant sectors to develop their sector-wide strategies and policies. Such impressive progress in wetland mainstreaming can be greatly attributed to three measures introduced over the past four years. They are as follows:

- 1) Wetland can be classified as a Tier-1 type of land use in the third national survey of land use. Wetland was entitled to be registered as natural resources in China's national register of natural resource assets, subject to surveying and monitoring required by the national natural resources surveying and monitoring system. This move would help all sectors that use wetland resources for socioeconomic development keep their exploitation practices in full compliance with applicable national and international regulations.
- 2) A natural protected area including the category of protected wetland was provisioned as a registration unit of natural resource asset when its property is classified and registered. The provision will help identify and delineate each piece of protected wetland, its aboveground and underground natural resources, and the rights to its legal owners, users and managers.
- 3) A wide range of responsibilities, including land use planning and control, ecological restoration, and oversight of natural resources extraction and use, were collectively assigned to the Ministry of Natural Resources after the 2018 government institutional reform. This reform effort made it possible for China to control the use of wetland resources from the very beginning of their use—national spatial planning of land use. The government institutional reform also authorized the National Forestry and Grassland Administration and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment to see to it that relevant sectors shall develop and comply with ecologically appropriate policies and regulations on extraction and use of wetland resources. Specifically speaking, NFGA is mainly responsible for managing wetland and MEE for overseeing environmental quality of wetland.

- H. According to paragraph 21 of Resolution XIII.18 on *Gender and wetlands*, please provide a short description about the balance between men and women participating in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research

Women are always a potent force for wetland conservation and wise use. Scientific research and practices have concluded that women and minority ethnic groups can improve efficiency and effectiveness when they are, as equal working partners, engaged in wetland conservation effort, such as information sharing, education and training, setting up organizations and developing policies.

A full recognition, acknowledgement, respect and protection of women's rights and gender equality have been considered an accepted practice in wetland mainstreaming. Below are practice highlights: 1) There are more female employees in the wetland-related fields now than ever. They are hard-working community rangers, capable government officials or fantastic NGO leaders. 2) Women find it easier to access wetland training programs. They are one of the main promoters and beneficiaries in the effort of enhancing biodiversity and wetland conservation and of transforming fishery practices.

Take the programme "Main Streams of Life—Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation". Over its five-year implementation period, there were over 6,500 people received training at more than 160 training sessions sponsored by the programme; over 20 per cent of the trainees were women. Of the provinces where the programme was implemented, Anhui province promoted more women into senior and higher management posts responsible for wetland issues; Xinjiang region supported minority ethnic women develop alternative livelihood practices through conducting embroidering training programs.

One more inspiring example is the Dachen Fishermen's Wives Association, founded by Dachen township in Jiaojiang District, Taizhou City of Zhejiang province. The fisherwomen on the island used to engaged in net weaving and fish catching or processing activities. They have now gained new skills for providing ecotourism excursions without impacting island environment. It is reported that in the island town there have six fine homestays with a total annual accommodation capacity of 5,000 guests.

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

There are nine migratory bird flyways on Earth. Among them, the East Asian-Australasian flyway is under the most threat. Stretching across 22 countries including Russia, China and Australia, this flyway extends 12,000 kilometers and supports the migration of over 50 million birds every year. China is key to the viability of 33 globally threatened species that use the flyway. China would like, using the Ramsar Convention as a platform for regional cooperation, coordination and communication among coastal cities along the flyway, to discuss conservation issues (e.g. wetland restoration and migratory birds' protection), so as to promote global governance in the field of ecosystem management. We hope that this topic of interest can be considered and prioritized at future COPs or other international conferences/meetings related to the Ramsar Convention.

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

the National Forestry and Grassland Administration
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
the National Development and Reform Commission
the Ministry of Education
the Ministry of Finance

the Ministry of Natural Resources
the Ministry of Ecology and Environment
the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development
the Ministry of Water Resources
the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
the Ministry of Culture and Tourism
the Chinese Academy of Sciences

Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15]

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.

[Reference to Aichi Target 2]

1.1	Have wetland conservation and the identification of wetlands benefits been integrated into sustainable approaches to the following national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.3.2} {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i	
A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant		
a)	National Policy or strategy for wetland management:	A
b)	Poverty eradication strategies:	A
c)	Water resource management and water efficiency plans:	A
d)	Coastal and marine resource management plans:	A
e)	Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan:	A
f)	National forest programmes:	A
g)	National policies or measures on agriculture:	A
h)	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD:	A
i)	National policies on energy and mining:	A
j)	National policies on tourism:	A
k)	National policies on urban development:	A
l)	National policies on infrastructure:	A
m)	National policies on industry:	A
n)	National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i:	A
o)	National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management:	A
p)	National policies on wastewater management and water quality:	A

1.1 Additional information:

a) In March 2017, the Ministry of Natural Resources launched a pilot effort on land-use regulations and restrictions with respect to natural ecological areas at 19 cities/counties in nine provinces/municipalities. After ecologically segmenting wetland into two types of land use—ecological redline zones and general-use land, the pilot regions further explored on zoning wetland into ecological areas with differentiated objectives of land use planning. The work will prepare the pilot governments for innovative modes of land use management, including adopting positive/negative list management modes and developing new arrangements for implementation of zoning restrictions.

On November 1st, 2017, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and the National Standardization Administration published the *National Standards for Land Use Categories*, coded as GB/T21010—2017. Wetland was included in the system as a Tier-1 level of land use type consisting of 14 subtypes. It was the first time for China to include wetland as an independent land-use category in its land use classification system.

In 2018, the Ministry of Natural Resources publicized the *Technical Guidelines for Assessing Ecological Impacts of Coastal Land Reclamation Projects (Tentative)* and the *Technical Guidelines for Formulating Ecological Restoration Plans for Coastal Land Reclamation Projects (Tentative)*. Those Guidelines further attach importance to science-based protection of coastal ecosystems.

b) In January 2018, the National Development and Reform Commission, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development jointly released the *Poverty Alleviation Scheme through Ecological Development Programmes*, aiming to “by 2020, employ 100,000 poverty-stricken people in ecological and environmental protection programmes in addition to creating additional 400,000 community ranger positions”. The Scheme listed out ten major programmes, including one about wetland protection and restoration.

c) In February 2019, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Finance, the National Development and Reform Commission, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs collectively announced the *Action Plan for Combating against Groundwater Overdraft in North China*, intending to gradually re-strike a balance between groundwater consumption and recharge in the region. This Action Plan proposed measures for water saving, including transforming agricultural structure, reducing groundwater overdraft, raising the water table through recharging groundwater, and reducing the exploitation intensity of water resources at the watershed and regional levels.

Two months later, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Water Resources put forward the *National Water Saving Action Plan*. The Action Plan aimed to keep the national annual water consumption below 670 billion cubic meters through to 2022, calling on the whole society to save water and use water more efficiently. This will help save water in industries and homes.

In December 2019, the Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) released the *Plan for Protection and Utilization of Riverine Wetland Areas along the Pearl River-Xijiang River Economic Belt*, with an aim to strengthen their protection. In this Plan, it was recommended that all riverbank zones be used in rigid compliance with their designated functional purposes, which put ecological conservation first with full consideration of multiple functions provided by river ecosystems, including flood prevention, waterway transportation, water supply, and biodiversity conservation. In that same month, the MWR also assisted six provinces with less precipitation than normal that year in the formulation of their own *2019-2020 Plans for Securing Drinking Water Supply for Urban and Rural Communities*. Jiangxi, Anhui, and Fujian were among these

provinces.

d-e) In February 2018, the former State Oceanic Administration released the *National Oceanic Environmental Protection Plan (2017-2020)*, calling for taking action to keep seas cleaner, greener, and healthier. To achieve the overall goal, this Plan identified detailed conservation objectives with a matrix of eight indicators for performance evaluation measures, including the ratio of coastal areas with good water quality to the total coastal areas and the ratio of the length of natural coastline to the total stretch coastline.

f) China released its *National Plan for Urban Forest Development (2018-2015)* on July 6th, 2018. As envisaged in the blueprint, over half of China's urban areas are to be forest and wetland ecosystems. Cities will be ecologically linked with more new forests or wetlands well blended with their surrounding geographical features—rivers, lakes or mountains. Corridor forests will be also grown along roads, watercourses and between core forest patches to further increase ecological connectivity between forest areas.

g) In September 2017, China released the *Opinions on Adopting Innovative Systems and Mechanisms and Promoting Green Agricultural Development*, encouraging speeding up the process of “agricultural modernization” toward a sustainable development in agriculture. It was advised that a collection of policies should be put in place to reach the goal of keeping, by 2020, the areas of China's wetland no less than 800 million *mu*, or 53 million hectares. These policies were, *inter alia*, to introduce forestry and wetland rehabilitation mechanisms, to implement a stricter wetland classification and management system, to perfect freshwater ecosystem protection and restoration systems, and to ameliorate eco-compensation policies and mechanisms for protecting arable land, grassland, forestland, wetland, and aquatic wildlife.

h) The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs released a series of action plans for saving endangered animals including the Chinese sturgeon, Yangtze finless porpoise, Dabry's sturgeon and Asian giant soft shell turtle. In these conservation plans, details were outlined in terms of expected targets to be achieved ranging from population size to the extent of habit to genetic diversity.

On April 3rd, 2018, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and the Ministry of Water Resources proclaimed the *Plan for Protecting Aquatic Biodiversity in Key Watersheds*, so as to halt the loss of aquatic biodiversity in these watersheds. According to the Plan, four current systems for aquatic biodiversity conservation will be ameliorated by 2020. The four systems consisted of the aquatic biodiversity tracking and evaluation system, the wetland protected area network, the water use management and allocation system, and the water use compliance and enforcement system. Specific activities were also proposed in the Plan, such as to carry out an inventory survey of aquatic biodiversity, to assess the conservation needs and management performance of existing aquatic protected areas, and to curb inappropriate practices of redirecting environmental water allocations in major rivers and lakes for other undefined purposes.

Leaving aside the *National Biodiversity Conservation Strategies and Action Plan (2011-2030)* prepared by the former Ministry of Environmental Protection, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration and the Chinese Academy of Sciences published a book entitled *China's Plant Conservation Strategies*. Some chapter of this book covered information about conservation and sustainable use of wetland plants.

i) In July 2017, the former Ministry of Land and Resources publicized the *Work Plan for Withdrawing Mining Claims on Nature Reserves*. This administrative directive aimed to have a thorough survey of all mining claims on the areas (e.g. protected areas) located within ecological red lines, so as to provide data for future development of policies on closing the mines. All provinces also followed suit and issued similar work plans.

In June 2019, China announced the *Guiding Opinions on Establishing China's Natural Protected Areas with National Parks at the Core*. This decree made it clear that key long-standing issues, such as mining activities in protected areas, should be settled in an orderly manner. The Ministry of Natural Resources is expediting the enactment of guiding opinions on withdrawing mining claims on natural protected areas.

j) In 2017, the former State Tourism Administration released the *Industry Standards for National Demonstration Sites of Wetland Tourist Attractions*. The technical specifications were laid out to diversify wetland tourism by tapping into new emerging business models for the establishment of a well-regulated tourist industry.

In 2020, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism started to revise the *Guidelines for the Construction and Operation of National Demonstration Sites of Eco-tourist Attractions* for better guiding and regulating the development of ecotourism, inclusive of wetland tourism.

k) In 2017, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development issued the *Urban Wetland Management Measures*. With the recognition of the ecological and social services generated by urban wetland, the new regulation specified the primary goals of urban wetland conservation, construction and management.

In March 2019, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration announced the *Action Plan for Greening and Beautifying Rural Villages*. One of the key activities listed in the Action Plan was to protect natural ecosystems in rural areas through preserving natural forest and grassland landscapes, geographical features, and small and micro wetlands.

l) To curb coastal encroachment, the State Council announced in July 2018 the *Notice on Intensifying Coastal Wetland Protection and Land Reclamation Management*, calling for a stricter conservation mode that reconciles the needs for sufficient ecological resilience of marine ecosystems and for economical and intensive use of marine resources. It was set forth in the Notice that the ubiquitous practice of coastal reclamation should not be allowed in a chaotic way, and that terrestrial and marine resources should be conserved and extraced in an integrated and coordinated manner. To facilitate the implementation of the Notice, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the National Development and Reform Commission jointly promulgated corresponding guiding opinions in January 2019.

In 2018, the Ministry of Natural Resources released the *Notice on Further Clarifying of Addressing Long-unsolved Issues Related to Coastal Reclamation* and two sets of technical specifications to curb coastal reclamation. One of the technical specifications was on ecological evaluation of coastal reclamation projects and the other on the development of ecological protection and restoration plans for coastal reclamation projects. According to the above-mentioned regulations, all new coastal reclamation projects are required to minimize their damages to coastal and marine ecosystems through making necessary and proper conservation and restoration efforts during the course of their implementation.

m) In December 2019, the *Outline of the Integrated Regional Development of the Yangtze River Delta* was issued. One of the highlighted components listed in the Outline was to take more joint interprovincial actions in terms of ecological conservation and environmental enhancement. As outlined in the Outline, China will take a series of coordinated actions in the following aspects, including constructing major interprovincial hydrological projects on rivers, preventing river floods and sea storms, and protecting and restoring wetland ecosystems and headwaters areas of ecological significance. The Outline also called for more coordinated actions in wastewater prevention and control and in environmental enhancement and compliance. It proposed that wetland eco-compensation arrangements be explored through putting in place trans-watershed eco-compensation systems, setting up water pollution compensation standards, and introducing water quality-based government performance frameworks.

n) In February 2019, ten central government bodies, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), issued the *Multiple Opinions Concerning Advancing Green Growth in Aquaculture*. The administrative directive set a goal of making a significant progress towards environmentally friendly aquaculture in natural public water bodies. It envisioned that, by 2022, the wastewater from all of major aquaculture farms would live up to China's national effluent discharge standards for treated wastewater discharged to surface water regimes and that China would have over 500 national aquatic germplasm reserves plus at least 7,000 national pilots for demonstrating sustainable aquaculture farming. To achieve the planned goal, major measures outlined in the directive included developing science-based aquaculture technologies, shifting aquaculture farming practices to more sustainable ones, identifying appropriate density and array coverage of aquaculture cages, downsizing the scale of aquaculture farming to a level within environmental capacity, and reducing the use of feed pellets or powder.

o-p) On April 19th, 2017, the Ministry of Water Resources released the *Measures for Surveillance and Management of Water Resources Functional Zones* for effective water protection with the purpose of securing sustainable use of water resources.

In January 2020, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the Ministry of Water Resources jointly announced the *Guiding Opinions on Joint Prevention and Control of Water Pollution in Interprovincial Watersheds*. This ministerial order encouraged a wider and broader coordination and/or cooperation between upstream and downstream stakeholders sharing a same watershed in containing emergent water pollution, so as to enhance each other's capacities for monitoring of and responding to emergent environmental issues.

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.*
[Reference to Aichi Targets 7 and 8], [Sustainable Development Goal 6, Indicator 6.3.1]

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
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2.1 Additional information:

To maintain Zhalong's ecological flow regimes, water was first diverted from the Nenjiang River to the Ramsar site in 2001. In the following year, China saw water in the Yangtze River be redirected to the Nansi Lake. Those projects were among the earliest efforts for China to supply water to shrinking wetlands. Wetland loss and degradation have worsened over these years in some areas of China, so the practice of wetland ecological water replenishment has, since 2017, become one of the strategies for wetland conservation and restoration.

In line with their own needs, provincial and local governments launched a great many projects to restore ecological connectivity among streams, rivers, lakes and seas. Those projects enabled China to import water to degraded wetland sites facing serious shortage of water supply due to natural causes and human activities. Among these wetland sites, estuaries, flood plains and inland lakes were most susceptible to the ecological stress. During the period from 2014 to 2017, five out of 56 Ramsar sites in China received water transferred from areas of surplus for ecological replenishment purpose.

Over a decade of efforts in wetland ecological water replenishment, long-term mechanisms are institutionalized in many regions to mitigate water shortage caused by climate change-driven droughts and the development of structural barriers, including dams, dikes, and levees. The efforts started with bringing water to single specific sites within the same watershed, such as projects implemented at Beidagang in Tianjin, Xianghai and Momoge in Jilin province, Kekesu and Kamasi in Xijiang provinces, and Wullianghai in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. They later had an entire sub-watershed as a receiving wetland (e.g. the Yellow River Delta Wetland in Shandong province) before eventually seeing inter-watershed water diversion used in regions like Xianghai in Jilin province, Zhalong in Heilongjiang province and the Yongding River in the municipality of Beijing. Some provinces even started piloting potential uses of recycled water in maintaining wetland water levels. The municipality of Tianjin supplied Beidagang, a Ramsar site, with treated wastewater, which was environmentally responsible and safe.

The quality of water source concerning water diversion projects has caused concern among scientists. A group of researchers reviewed a project that had re-allocated water from the Yellow River to the Hengshui Lake. They recommended that the water quality of any imported water should be tested, based on certain indicators such as the content of persistent organic pollutants, the content of heavy metals, and the amount of sediment (sediment concentration). In this way, it would help minimize potential risks from water and soil pollution at the water-receiving site.

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>2.2 Additional information:</p> <p>China started to explore wetland hydrological regimes in the 1980s. The earliest study at the Sanjiang Plain focused on the degree of evaporation of peatland water and the effects of floodplain loss on the water flows in the rivers and streams of the region. Back then, there were research projects conducted to study the interaction between floods and floodplains in the Songnen Watershed. To meet the demanding need for richer hydrological data in wetland conservation and restoration, a volume of research has been done in recent twenty years. The research efforts were mainly made: (i) to develop models to stimulate wetland hydrological processes and identify their roles in maintaining wetland ecosystems; (ii) to explore theories and methods for calculating wetland ecological water demand; (iii) to estimate replenishment amounts; and (iv) to develop best tools for the management of water resources. Ramsar sites, such as Zhalong and Chaganhu, were popular study sites among Chinese researchers for their study on identification of the ideal ranges of water levels for the couple of wetland sites to maintain ecological health and on calculation of replenishment amounts needed to keep minimum environmental flows when their water levels go low.</p>	
2.3 What, if any, initiatives have been taken to improve the	A

	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; O= No Change; X= Unknown
<p>2.3 Additional information:</p> <p>In April 2016, the Ministry of Water Resources published the <i>Tentative Measures for Water Rights Transaction</i> to boost water saving and water-use efficiency through introducing an innovative, market-based water resources allocation system. The system would allow a clear classification of the rights to water use and appropriation and encourage these rights to be traded among water users of different sectors across different regions and watersheds. It also would promote water-saving practices, allowing water consumers to benefit from trading and transferring their spare water rights.</p> <p>In 2018, Guangdong province decided to introduce a water rights transaction system to the Dongjiang watershed, one of the top three largest watersheds in the Zhujiang Watershed, which provides water supply for a population of nearly 40 million people. The decision was inspired by the successful implementation of the <i>Water Resources Allocation Plan for the Dongjiang Watershed</i>, which had slashed annual water consumption per 10,000 Chinese yuan GDP by half over a decade period. Guangdong province is considering copying the system to other major watersheds, including the watersheds of Beijiang and Hanjiang. The province is also expected to establish a real-time water quality and quantity monitoring system, the very first of such kind in China. In this way, it will advance the allocation and management of water resources in a holistic way and have a safe and secure water supply. Concurrently, environmental issues, such as altered water regimes caused by extensive exploitation of water resources, will also be lessened.</p> <p>In 2019, the Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) promised to secure environmental flows in major rivers and lakes based on a set of guiding principles. The core of the guidelines was about maintaining the water regimes safe habitat for their key (biodiversity) conservation targets in a manner, which demands a full consideration of their natural regimes, status quo of the existing uses of water resources, and compatibility with water allocation monitoring system. In March 2019, the MWR unveiled the <i>Notice on Estimating and Securing Environmental Flows (Water Allocations) in Major Rivers and Lakes</i>, calling on all responsible government departments and agencies to do their part in developing implementation plans for 21 major rivers and lakes outlined in the Notice. By October 11th, 2019, water allocation plans for 41 transboundary rivers were developed and approved. The next step for the Ministry of Water Resources is to expand the practice to other interprovincial rivers and lakes. Most provinces are expediting their efforts to develop such plans for intra-province rivers and lakes.</p> <p>In conjunction with the Yangtze River Water Resources Committee and the Yangtze Three-Gorge Group, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs organized a group of research agencies to work out a water allocation plan, which gave proper consideration to the ecological water requirements of ecosystems components of fish communities. The effort aimed to establish a long-term mechanism for environmental water allocation.</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, teamed up with the Yangtze Three-Gorge Group, also started a research on the feasibility of introducing coordinated environmental water allocation involving all the cascade hydropower stations on the upper reach of the Yangtze River. This will further help the concept of environmental water management be applied to large reservoirs such as the Three-Gorge Reservoir.</p>	

2.4 Have projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands been developed (Action r3.4.ix.)	A
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

2.4 Additional information:

China is promoting the concept of sponge city. The National Development and Reform Commission considered sponge city projects part of China's Green Bond Grant Scheme. By the end of 2018, the number of pilot sponge cities rocketed to 300 from an initial 16 in 2015, marking a big leap in promoting in cities the idea of integrated wetland management and water resources use.

Innovative practices and concepts, such as digitalized intelligence and public-private partnerships, were exciting highlights of the sponge cities projects. Take the city of Fuzhou in Fujian province as an example. The city introduced a series of integrated intelligent pump sluice gates, integrating pumps, sensors and controls into a structure over the waterway, that brought flow to the water in the city's rivers and canals. The new sluice gate system allows the city not only diverting water among rivers but also keeping water flowing, completely solved the problem with black and smelly water in the city's rivers and canals.

In 2019, the Ministry of Water Resources launched a nationwide activity of collecting best practices for wise allocation and use of water that might be good enough to be introduced to other places in China.

2.5 Percentage of households linked to sewage system ? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	74%
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2.5 Additional information:

There are 451.8 million households in China. By 2020, the sewage treatment connection rates in urban areas will be very close to 100%. However, the numbers for rural areas are much lower. It is predicted that by the end of 2020, there still will be about 376 million of people or 117.5 million households disconnected from the available rural sewage treatment systems. Therefore, the sewage treatment connection rate in China can stand at 74%.

2.6 What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	E=74%
	E=# percent; F= Less than # percent; G= More Than # percent; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant

2.6 Additional information:

As described in the answer to Question 2.5, the percentage of sewerage coverage is expected to rise up to 74%.

2.7 What is the percentage of users of septic tank/pit latrine if relevant to your country? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	F=25%
	E=# percent; F=Less Than # percent; G= More Than # percent; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant

2.7 Additional information:

In 2018, more than 10 million rural families installed their new toilets, thanks to the rural toilet revolution programme. Over 60 per cent of the new toilet facilities were sanitary ones, which were no less than two square meters in size and featured with walls, roofs, doors and windows. In 2019, the central government spent 7 billion Chinese yuan, or approximately 1 billion US dollars, on the improvement of nearly 12 million rural squat toilets in rural regions. The statistics available showed that, by the end of 2019, there were over half of China's rural families that had upgraded their toilets and that 60 per cent of the households had had sanitary toilets installed. Results from China's sixth population census indicated that rural residents made up 50.32 per cent of its whole population. Considering the actual progress of the rural toilet revolution program, it is safe to conclude that there are less than 25 per cent of the rural people that are still using squat toilets.

<p>2.8 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A= Yes, B= No; C= Partially, D=Planned X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
<p>2.8 Additional information:</p> <p>Man-made wetlands are encouraged to be used when wastewater treatment plants are built or upgraded. According to a 2018 scientific article, China built, during the period from 1990 to 2015, 791 constructed wetlands for treating wastewater from different resources including domestic, industrial, agricultural practices. Three types of constructed wetlands were found widely adopted in China. They included surface flow and vertical or horizontal sub-surface constructed wetlands. The horizontal sub-surface system was the most popular type. Coastal provinces of Zhejiang, Guangdong and Shandong were among the frontrunners in treating wastewater with manmade wetlands.</p> <p>Created wetlands play an important role in pollution control and environmental improvement in rural areas. In 2017, the municipality of Beijing publicized the <i>Technical Specifications for Constructing Man-made Wetlands for Treating Domestic Wastewater in Rural Areas</i>, calling for turning wastewater treatment plants into wetland parks. This would help rural communities find a way out of the sad situation that there was little money for them to spend on maintaining a traditional rural wastewater treatment plant. This policy has harvested 65 pilot projects, making rural environment a better place with cleaner water and more beautiful scenery.</p> <p>The swelling of rural recreation and tourism is posing a challenge on the limited waste treatment capacity in rural areas. There are 1.5 million agritainment resorts across China, placing a huge burden on limited waste treatment systems in rural villages. In 2017, the United National Development Program China Office, the China Center for International Economic Exchanges of the Ministry of Commerce and the China Office of the Coca-Cola Company launched a project "Happy Time at Rural Farms", aiming to build constructed wetlands for villages with agritainment business. Over 30 rural communities in the provinces of Jiangsu, Chongqing, Sichuan, Fujian and Shandong were beneficiaries of the project. In addition, the World Wildlife Fund China program also did similar work in regions of the Yangtze River Watershed, including the cities of Guangyuan, Chengdu and Chongqing, promoting using small and micro wetlands to purify wastewater in rural areas of the watershed.</p>	

<p>2.9 Number of wastewater treatment plants (or volume treated exist at national level)? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>E=10,826</p> <p>E= # plants; F= Less than #; G=More than #; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
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2.9 Additional information:

The latest national list of centered wastewater treatment systems shows that China set up 10,826 sets of sewage treatment equipment with a daily treatment capacity of 500 tons or above. By the end of January 2020, there were 10,113 wastewater treatment plants received their authorized pollutant discharge permits.

<p>2.10 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants? If relevant to your country SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Good; B=Not Functioning; C=Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
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2.10 Additional information:

In China wastewater treatment capacities vary among cities at different administrative levels. According to data available in 2017, all of China's provincial- and prefectural-level cities discharged 49.23 billion cubic meters of wastewater, of which 94.54 per cent, or 46.55 billion cubic meters, was treated before being discharged to the environment; all county-level cities produced 9.51 billion cubic meters of wastewater, of which 90.21 per cent, or 8.58 billion cubic meters was treated before being returning to the environment. All administrative towns owned 4,810 wastewater treatment plants that had a total capacity of treating 49.35 per cent of their wastewater. The rural towns had only 874 wastewater treatment plants, allowing 20 per cent of their wastewater treated.

It was outlined in the *13th Five-Year Plan for Constructing Wastewater Treatment Systems and Recycled Water Re-use Facilities in Urban and Rural Cities* that all administrative towns will averagely increase their wastewater treatment rates to 70% in 2020 from 49.35% in 2017—a 50% jump. By the end of 2019, there were 9,213 wastewater treatment plants/systems established in China with an accumulated capacity of 2.28×10^8 m³/d.

<p>2.11 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>C</p> <p>A=Good; B=Not Functioning C=Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
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2.11 Additional information:

Rural villages fall far behind cities and towns in terms of wastewater treatment capacities. By the end of 2018, the centralized wastewater treatment systems in rural areas had a combined capacity of $1.6 \times 10^7 \text{ m}^3/\text{d}$ and the non-centralized ones $1.2 \times 10^7 \text{ m}^3/\text{d}$.

It is estimated that only an average of 22 per cent of wastewater generated in the rural areas can be treated. This number varies among different villages nationwide. Over 70% of administrative towns, 90% of township-level towns and 80% administrative villages have no wastewater treatment systems of any kind. Wastewater treatment capacities in rural areas have seen an average annual growth rate of 8%. The need for more wastewater treatment plants in rural villages is still high.

2.12 Number of wastewater reuse systems (or volume re-used) and purpose? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

#=10,904

2.12 Additional information:

In 2016, the Gaobeidian Wastewater Treatment Plant of Beijing was transformed to a water recycling plant with a capacity of $1 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3/\text{d}$, marking a milestone in pushing wastewater treatment from basic to advanced phases. Compared with many developed countries, China has recycled a smaller proportion of its wastewater and that the quality of recycled water is not good enough for other purposes beyond non-potable ones, such as landscape irrigation. The prices for recycled water are still less favorable than those for regular non-recycled water, in part due to a slower growth of water recycling systems.

As described above, there are over 10,904 units of sewage treatment systems in China, including wastewater treatment plants and constructed wetlands.

2.13 What is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system if relevant to your country ? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

R,S,T

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

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

China is a severe water-scarce country. One of the aims of the use of recycled water is to help ease water shortage in China. The *Water Pollution Prevention and Treatment Action Plan*, released in 2015, set water recycling rates for water-stressed cities. As outlined in the Action Plan, recycled water used in the water-strapped cities and in the Jinjingji region would, by 2020, account for 20% and 30% of their respective total water consumption amounts. The *13th Five-Year Plan for Constructing Wastewater Treatment Systems and Recycled Water Re-use Facilities in Urban and Rural Cities* further encouraged water-rich cities and counties to expand the use of recycled water in more ways than what is possible now, making their consumptions of recycled water by 2020 accounting for as much as 15% of their total water consumptions.

Recycled water is used for many purposes. It is primarily supplied to profitable industries that consume an annual stable amount of water. A host of other common uses also include urban uses (e.g. irrigation of public parks, street cleaning, toilet flushing) and environment uses (e.g. aquifer recharge, wetlands, marshes). Agricultural uses such as irrigation of food crops and augmentation of surface waters are relatively rare due to limited availability of recycled water. For example, a 63.8-hectare constructed wetland named “China Water Valley” started its establishment in May 2019. The man-made wetland was expected to see 500,000 tonnes of recycled water flow in per day and said to be the largest reclaimed water wetland park in Asia.

China is exploring its way forward for resource-oriented wastewater treatment, which has gradually become a heated topic for the global wastewater sector. With the vision of turning wastewater treatment plants from a site of pollutant removal into a plant producing energy, water and fertilizer, an integral part of urban ecology and landscape, a group of experts from top research institutes, universities and government agencies in China proposed in 2014 a new concept on valorization of wastewater. A wastewater treatment plant built based on the concept can meet quadruple aim goals—sustainable water supply, energy self-sufficient operation, resource recovery, and environmental harmony. The concept was first put into use in 2018 by the city of Wuxi. It opened a new chapter in the history of China’s management of wastewater and urban aquatic ecology in an ecologically sustainable and harmonious manner.

2.14 Does your country use a wastewater treatment process that utilizes wetlands as a natural filter while preserving the wetland ecosystem?

A

A=Yes; B=No;
X= Unknown;

2.14 Additional information: If Yes, please provide an example

Controlling water pollution caused by sewage discharges has for many years been a priority for the Chinese government, which gave strong support for the efforts in terms of wastewater treatment and aquatic environment restoration. In spite of years of efforts, there has yet no significant improvement observed in this aspect of environmental pollution mitigation.

In 2015, the Government issued the *Action Plan for Controlling Water Pollution*, indicating a new era for aquatic environmental conservation that considers aquatic environmental improvement as an ultimate goal. Since management of aquatic environment is far more than water quality management, water pollution control should not be restricted merely to the wastewater treatment plants. The upstream sewage systems and downstream water regimes (e.g. rivers and wetlands) that are hydrologically connected with a wastewater treatment should also put in place the practice of controlling water pollution.

In a nutshell, it will be better to raise the standards for discharge effluents from wastewater treatment systems rather than solely increasing their wastewater treatment capacities. Some recently released guidelines also stressed the urgency to make such necessary revisions.

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}
[Reference to Aichi Targets 3, 4, 7 and 8]

<p>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</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>3.1 Additional information:</p> <p>In 2015, the State Council issued the <i>Guiding Opinions on the Development of Sponge Cities</i>, calling for supporting the initiative of sponge cities with more government grants and loans, wider civic engagement and involvement, and more private sector capital through PPPs and concessions.</p> <p>In 2017, the former State Forestry Administration released the <i>Decision on Making Revisions to Wetland Conservation and Management Regulations</i>, highlighting that: i) Any degradation or loss of wetland caused by a construction project, should be restored in a defined time period by the construction entity; ii) Any individual, entity or other organization should be encouraged to engage in wetland conservation whether by donating their time or wealth; iii) Any wetland site that may be used for the purposes of biodiversity conservation, proper uses of wetland resources, environment education, scientific research and ecotourism, can be eligible for a Wetland Park Designation.</p>	
<p>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:</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) Wetlands in general</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p> <p>a) A</p> <p>b) A</p>

3.2 Additional information:

China is promoting the conservation of small and micro wetlands for two simultaneous purposes. One is to improve the environment in rural areas to further boost rural tourism and increase local incomes. The other is to increase rural wastewater treatment capacity with wetland filters. The way that small and scattered wetlands locally filter wastewater discharged from villages can help reduce the severity of pollution and eutrophication in downstream water regimes in the same watershed. This will help avoid ecological disruption created by a ripple effect of contamination.

Public-private partnerships involve private capital and services in wetland restoration and the initiative of sponge city. Take the city of Nanning in Guangxi province. The Nanning government and a private investment entity signed a 10-year agreement on integrated improvement projects concerning watershed water environment. As agreed in the Cooperative Agreement, the private company shall invest over 1 billion Chinese *yuan* in the projects and be responsible for their overall operation for the first eight years on their construction completion.

The initiative of wetland community rangers is part of China's community rangers project, a nationwide effort designed to engage local communities in ecological conservation and environment protection. Local villagers are paid to help protect wetland regimes. They do regular patrols, acting as the "eyes and ears" of local wetland workforce. They also help promote practices for wetland conservation and wise use in their communities. For example, local herders in the Qinghai-Tibet plateau replaced their sheep fences, which were made out of large pieces of peatland soil, with portable ones made out of steel poles and canvas material. The new practice, adopted by a town of 462 herders, helped keep 1,700 hectares of wetland from degradation due to peatland removal.

<p>3.3 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>3.3 Additional information:</p> <p>The percentage of wetland under protection (% of area remained as natural wetlands) is one of the indicators used by China's Green Growth Indicators Framework, a performance-based appraisal mechanism for the government. The inclusion of the indicator in the governance performance evaluation signaled the importance of wetland conservation.</p> <p>With the announcement of the <i>Opinions on Ameliorating Eco-compensation Mechanisms</i>, released by the State Council in 2016, many regions, including Suzhou of Jiangsu province, Tianjin Municipality and Hainan province successively announced local regulations and policies. Their efforts intended to facilitate the implementation of the national policy in two key areas. One was to pilot at more sites the conversion of reclaimed arable land to wetland. The other was to explore wetland eco-compensation mechanisms based on demonstration efforts made at national wetland nature reserves, Ramsar sites and other wetland areas of National Importance. For example, the Municipality of Tianjin passed in 2018 the <i>Tianjin Wetland Eco-compensation Measures (Tentative)</i>, outlining specific principles for paying compensations for converting reclaimed arable or forest lands and aquaculture farming to wetland and for the use of the ecological replenishment funding.</p> <p>The central government is implementing an awarding policy on ecological conservation and restoration efforts made in the Yangtze River Economic Belt region. With specified funds from the Water Pollution Prevention and Control Grant, the policy provides financial assistance for the following three-pronged areas: i) to establish interprovincial water resources protection accountability mechanisms; ii) to encourage each province of the region to institutionalize intra-provincial environmental protection accountability mechanisms; and iii) to guide all of the region's provincial and local governments putting the policy into concrete action and give rewards to those with prominent performance.</p> <p>Provincial governments are active in developing different incentive practices too. For example, Jiangxi province has taken out one million Chinese yuan (or 0.15 million US dollars) for eight straight years to award sub-provincial governments, entities or individuals for their impressive efforts and achievements in the protection of migratory birds in the wetland of Poyang Lake. In Jiangxi province, the Nanji Wetland National Nature Reserve Management Authority introduced a rewarding system, allowing local aquaculture farmers in the neighborhood of the reserve to earn awards through providing habitat of their fishing ponds or lakes for wetland-dependent migratory birds. The more water birds their fishing farms accommodate, the higher rewards they get. Hebei province enacted its rewarding and punishment system for wetland conservation. It included the total area of wetlands and the percentage of remaining natural wetlands in its eco-civilization performance metrics, so as to establish and perfect a performance-based rewarding mechanism and life-long accountability mechanism. In this respect, Hebei province had its counterpart. The Hunan Provincial Political Consultative Conference similarly urged Hunan province to speed up the enactment of incentive policies on environmental protection. The Jv county of Shandong province passed a regulation, stating that anyone, who discloses to government agencies any illicit activity conducted at any wetland headwaters, shall be rewarded in cash.</p>	
<p>3.4 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable</p>

3.4 Additional information:

The task of delimiting and sticking to ecological redlines is one of the priorities of China's ecological civilization initiative. In line with this priority, the former Ministry of Environmental Protection announced a few of directives including the *Multiple Opinions on Delimiting and Sticking to Ecological Redlines* and the *Guidelines for Delineating Ecological Redlines* in 2017. The announcement of the directives led to a nationwide effort in all of the provincial regions to establish ecological redlines for the protection of key wetlands (including coastal ones), so as to put in place a stricter conservation of wetland through discouraging any arbitrary change of land use purposes and prohibiting wetland-damaging development activities.

The Ministry of Ecology and Environment has over the last four years implemented a reinforced nationwide inspection on environmental protection. The Ministry inspected the protection and management of wetland to detect and punish management failures, such as illegal reclamation of wetland for residential settlements or agricultural development purpose, illegal extraction or use of wetland resources related to large-scale intensive aquaculture, and industrial-scale mining activities, including sand mining. It paid follow-up visits to the areas to ensure all found issues were well solved as requested. In 2017, the Ministry's Green Shield Action Project covered 446 national nature reserves (NRs); in 2018, the Project effort extended to 469 national NRs and 847 provincial ones; in 2019, the Project's target scope for inspection was all national NRs and the local NRs located in key identified regions.

All provinces, municipal and autonomous regions developed their own work plans for withdrawing mining claims on nature reserves after the former Ministry of Land and Resources issued a national one in July 2017. According to the timelines for the work plans, all mining operations within the boundaries of nature reserves should be shut down no later than December 31st, 2020.

In March 2017, ten central government bodies, including the former Ministry of Environmental Protection, the National Development and Reform Commission, the former State Forestry Administration and the former State Oceanic Administration, jointly publicized the *Plan for Pollution Prevention and Control in Coastal Zones of China*. The Plan made the following points clear: i) The natural coastal areas within ecological red lines should account for at least 30 per cent of each province's total coastal areas and at least 35 per cent of the coastline length should be remained intact; ii) The total area of wetlands including coastal areas should add up to no less than 800 million mu in size (approximately 53 million hectares) and the coverage of marine aquaculture farming should be kept at a level equivalent to 2.2 million hectares or so; and iii) the quality of coastal water should be Grades I or II of China's Environmental Quality Standards for Surface Water and the quality of water flowing into the ocean should be improved so much from the level in 2014 to a level that there are few "inferior to Grade V" water regimes.

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.*
{Reference to Aichi Target 9}

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

4.1 Additional information:

The Research Center for Invasive Species Prevention and Control, affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, established, in partnership with multiple agencies, a database of alien species recorded in China. The database consists of three major parts: (i) Alien pathogens, (ii) Alien animals, and (iii) Alien plants. Wetland invasive species are part of the database.

China has altogether blacklisted 53 non-native species through enacting a series of three lists of invasive species in 2003, 2010 and 2014 respectively. The former Ministry of Environmental Protection announced the fourth list of 18 invasive species. So far, there are 22 wetland alien species on the watch lists.

In 2019, the Department of Ecology and Environment of Yunnan Province and two research branches of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Kunming Institute of Botany and Kunming Institute of Zoology, jointly released an updated list of invasive species in Yunnan province. The comprehensive description of 441 invasive species and their distribution ranges made the book highly recognized as the fullest list of invasive species for the province.

China enacted the *Biosafety Law* on October 17th, 2020. The new legislation recognized invasive species as a threat to biosafety. It stipulates that *“The country shall strengthen the prevention and control of invasive species for biodiversity conservation; The cabinet-level administrative department in charge of agriculture and rural affairs shall, in conjunction with relevant cabinet bodies, develop a list of invasive species and enact management regulations.”*

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

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

4.2 Additional information:

Relevant provisions of laws and regulations on invasive species are scattered in various laws. The laws include *the Agriculture Law, the Law on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine, the Fishery Law, and the Forest Law*. Considering present and potential threats to China's environment and economy from the invasive species, the former Ministry of Agriculture, the former Ministry of Environmental Protection and the then State Forestry Administration made a collaborative effort of drafting regulations on the management of invasive species, with an intent to develop provisions and procedures for the assessment of economic and ecological risks and for monitoring, early warning and integrated control. This was the first national action toward enacting overarching nationwide legislation on invasive alien species after Hunnan province approved its provincial regulations of such kind in 2011.

Entrusted in June 2019 by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences completed the development of the *Technical Guidelines for the Impacts of Invasive Plants on Flora Diversity in Protected Natural Areas*. The draft version for consultation is now open for public review and comments.

4.3 Has your country successfully controlled through management actions invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems?	A
	A=Yes; B=No; X= Unknown
4.3. Additional information: (If 'Yes', please provide examples, including the species name and the successful management actions)	
<p>China has established a basic system for invasive species prevention and control. The period between 2012 and 2016 saw the establishment of 20 invasive species control demonstration areas, 24 natural predatory species breeding and raising centers, and three biological control demonstration bases. Those establishments made it possible for China to explore and promote a pool of methods for invasive species control, including getting rid of golden apple snails with pesticide spraying drones. The flea beetle (<i>Agasicles hygrophila</i>), a natural predator of alligator weed, proved to be effective in preventing the spread of the fast-growing aquatic plant. This practice has gained popularity among agricultural extension agents and local farmers as a quick, cheap, effective and reliable approach to invasive species eradication. The Shanghai Chongming-Dongtan Bird Sanctuary and Nature Reserve and the city of Beihai in Guangxi Province have, so far, succeeded in the control of smooth cord grass. The city of Jingzhou in Hubei province weeded out water lettuce and alligator weed from as much as 97.2 per cent of their occupied habitats.</p>	

4.4 Are there invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems that have not been successfully controlled through management actions?	A
	A=Yes; B=No; X= Unknown
4.4 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please provide examples, including the species name and the challenges to management)	
<p>The list of alien species is getting longer. China has recorded over 620 invasive species, which may cause an economic loss worth over 200 billion Chinese yuan, or approximately 30 billion US dollars. There is a tendency that many invasive species are incessantly expanding their colonies. Below are the most notorious ones in light of their damages to native wetland ecosystems: smooth cordgrass (<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>), alligator weed (<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>), water hyacinth (<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>), water lettuce (<i>Pistia stratiote</i>), common ragweed (<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>), red swamp crayfish (<i>Procambarus clarkii</i>), western mosquitofish (<i>Gambusia affinis</i>), largemouth bass (<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>), and golden apple snail (<i>Pomacea canaliculata</i>). As outlined in the answer to Question 2.3, some, but not many, extremely aggressive invasive species have been locally controlled. In spite of that, China is still facing no small task since preventing and controlling invasive species is an expensive, time-consuming, and repeatable process. Take water hyacinth as an example. To get rid of the river-choking plant, China's average annual spending on manual removal was 100 million Chinese yuan (or ca. 15 million US dollars) in addition to an additional tens of millions Chinese yuan used for chemical eradication.</p>	

<p>4.5 Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?</p>	<p>C</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>4.5 Additional information:</p> <p>The National Forestry and Grassland Administration does regular monitoring of ecological conditions of Ramsar sites. Invasive species is one of the monitoring indicators designed for the purpose.</p> <p>Shanghai Landscaping and City Appearance Administration made an evaluation of the effects of an over ten-year effort of the removal of smooth cord grass from coastal wetlands in the Shanghai Chongming-Dongtan National Bird Sanctuary and Nature Reserve. The evaluation consisted of a series of modules with indicators, including the geographical distribution range of alien species, the ecological status of restored wetland ecosystems, the status of biological diversity, and the economic valuation of environmental benefits. This practice is worth replicating in other regions with similar challenge.</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs also started measuring the effects following invasive species prevention and control, in particular focusing on exotic species that may impose major threats on agriculture. The commonest indicator used was the acres of area subject to invasive species control and eradication efforts. Some province, like Yunnan, even started to grade damages caused by invasive species with the purpose of developing more informed strategies for the management of alien species.</p>	

Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 6, 11, 13, 14, 15]

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 6, 11, 12]

<p>5.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List</i>? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
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5.1 Additional information:

With the support of the GEF-financed programme “Main Streams of Life—Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation”, the former State Forestry Administration entrusted the University of Fudan to have an overall assessment of China’s wetland protected areas, so as to prepare data for establishing and upgrading wetlands of international importance. The assessment concluded that there were gaps in conserving wetlands of international importance. The key gaps identified were as below: i) Uneven geographical distribution of Ramsar sites: there were no Ramsar sites in nine provinces/autonomous regions/municipalities, which were mainly located in Northwest China; ii) Inadequate representativeness of wetland types: rivers/streams/creeks and wetland cultures were a missing piece in the current network of China’s Ramsar sites; iii) Little importance attached to small-sized wetlands, which provide habitat for endangered species of amphibian and reptile or for wild relatives of wetland crops. The assessment report recommended that there were still 15 wetland sites worthy of being nominated for a Ramsar listing.

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

A=Yes; B=No;
D=Planned

5.2 Additional information:

When starting preparations for an international listing, a team of specialists will, with full reference to applicable criteria for Ramsar site accreditation, give their professional comments on a candidate wetland based on the overall appraisal of its conditions from the biological, ecological and managerial aspects.

5.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a formal management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i

E=64

E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

5.4 Of the Ramsar Sites with a formal management plan, for how many of these is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i

E=64

E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

5.5 Of the Ramsar sites without a formal management plan, for how many is there effective management planning currently being implemented through other relevant means e.g. through existing actions for appropriate wetland management? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i

Y

E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

5.3 – 5.5 Additional information:

By the end of September 2020, China has 64 Ramsar sites. All the Ramsar sites have their own master plans, a mandatory document for wetland conservation and management in China. With the assistance of international organizations and projects, a total of eleven Ramsar sites also developed their management plans. They were Shengjinhu in Anhui, Mai Po Inner Deep Bay in Hongkong, Dongzhaigang in Hainan, Poyang Lake in Jiangxi, Ruo'ergai in Sichuan, Erhai-Zecha in Qinghai, Shengnongjia-Dajiu Lake and Honghu Lake in Hubei, South Dongting Lake in Hunnan, Zhanjiang Mangrove in Guangdong, and Ancient Yellow River Course of Minquan in Henan. Most Ramsar sites also developed their specific management regulations to guide their management practices.

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with either a formal management plan) or management via other relevant means where they exist e.g through existing actions for appropriate wetland management ? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii

A

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

5.6 Additional information:

The Country Office for China's Implementing the Ramsar Convention monitored and assessed the ecological conditions of all Ramsar sites in 2018 and 2019 in a row and published two respective assessment reports entitled *China White Paper on Ecological Conditions in Ramsar Sites*. All 56 Ramsar sites at that time were given a full ecosystem health assessment.

In November 2019, the Institute of Geography Science and Resources and the Society Entrepreneurs and Ecology jointly publicized a book entitled "China Coastal Wetland Protection Green Book", providing a richness of information, including the progress of coastal wetland protection, costal wetland sites with high priority for conservation, and ecological functions and services provided by coastal wetlands. Relevant description of costal Ramsar sites was also covered in the publication.

5.7 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.4} {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv
More than 20 sites.

G

E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X=Unknown, Y=Not Relevant;

5.7 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

At the national level, all Ramsar sites in China are managed under the coordination and guidance provided by the National Committee for the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention. The Committee, formed in 2007, is made up of 16 member agencies, including the former State Forestry Administration (now the National Forestry and Grassland Administration), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Development and Reform Commission. Broad engagement means a strengthened focus on wetland protection.

Wetland management requires a wide range of agencies and organizations, including water resources management, environmental protection, agriculture and transport, to coordinate their roles. More and more researchers and decision-makers have been calling for forming interregional water resources management agencies. In November 2015, the former Ministry of Agriculture, the former Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Water Resources, the former State Forestry Administration, and the Yangtze Three-Gorge Group established two Fishery Resources Management and Counseling Committees, respectively for the Watersheds of the Yangtze River and Zhujiang River, aiming to help strike a balance between economic and ecological benefits from local and national perspectives together in both the long and short-runs.

In terms of individual wetland sites, Lake Honghu in Hubei province, Nanwenghe and Hanma in the Greater Khingan Region and the West Dongting Lake in Hunan province, have their own watershed management organizations. Although with different names, such as watershed-wide wetland management committee, biodiversity conservation committee or community management committee, these watershed management groups are capable of facilitating and coordinating wetland management. The other wetland sites of international Importance have their ad hoc inter-agency consulting meetings to discuss new issues and challenges when needed and necessary.

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

<p>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</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Sites; D=Planned</p>
<p>7.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):</p> <p>As described in the answer to Question 5.6, China White Paper on Ecological Conditions of Ramsar Sites is a good reference material for wetland management agencies to understand changes caused by human-induced disturbances. In addition, informative data from national wetland censuses prepared by the National Forestry and Grassland Administration and from the environmental inspection reports on the campaign of Green Shield Action implemented by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment can also be used to track changes occurred at Ramsar sites.</p>	

<p>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</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Cases; O=No Negative Change</p>
<p>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):</p> <p>In compliance with relevant requirements of the Ramsar Convention, China has reported any negative changes (if there are) at its Ramsar sites.</p>	
<p>7.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, such as requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii</p>	<p>Z</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable</p>
<p>7.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p> <p>n/a</p>	

Goal 3. Wisely using all wetlands

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 12, 14, 18, 19]

<p>8.1 Does your country have a complete National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned</p>
<p>8.1 Additional information:</p> <p>China has a national wetland inventory. To standardize the management of wetland of national importance, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration issued in 2019 two guiding documents: <i>the Regulations on the Nomination and Designation of Wetland of National Importance</i> and <i>the Indicators for the Identification of Wetland of National Importance</i>.</p>	

8.2 Has your country updated a National Wetland Inventory in the last decade?	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; C1=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>8.2 Additional information:</p> <p>The National Forestry and Grassland Administration recognized 2018 “the Year of Wetland Inventory”. The Administration teamed up with relevant land and resources agencies in carrying out a national survey on the wetlands in China. This joint effort will lead to the announcement of the latest China Wetland Inventory, providing the detailed spatial coordinates for each piece of wetland. In early 2020, the <i>2020 Inventory of Wetlands of National Importance</i> was formally released to public.</p>	
8.3 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>8.3 Additional information:</p> <p>The Department of Wetland of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration is responsible for updating China’s wetland inventory based on the information provided by local forestry and grassland agencies at all levels.</p>	
8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>8.4 Additional information:</p> <p>National wetland inventory can be accessed on the website of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration. Basic information about wetland nature reserves can also be found in China Nature Reserve Inventory, maintained by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment.</p>	

<p>8.5 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed during the last triennium? {1.1.3}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please describe on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>N=Status Deteriorated; O=No Change; P=Status Improved</p>
	<p>a) O b) P</p>
<p>8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b):</p> <p>a) As of 2019, China had 57 Ramsar sites covering an area of 6.94 million hectares. As shown in the latest survey report on the ecological conditions in China's Ramsar sites, five types of key threats were identified as below: incompatible agricultural activities, unplanned infrastructure and tourism development, pollution, invasive species, and climate change. Among those 57 Ramsar sites, 22 were affected by incompatible agriculture, forestry, fishery and animal husbandry practices, 11 encroached due to infrastructure construction driven by economic development, eight influenced by poorly planned tourism development, 15 suffered from pollution and six impacted by invasive species. All Ramsar sites were subject to climate change and some even saw a decline or loss of some rare and endangered species of birds.</p> <p>Specifically, these ecological changes observed at China's Ramsar sites were mainly as below: i) The regions where the Xingkai Lake, the Dalai Lake and Erduosi are located saw less rain during the period from 2014 to 2017. There were not enough environmental flows in dry seasons at another seven inland Ramsar sites, including the Xidongting Lake. Multiple Ramsar sites throughout the country had to import water from other water-surplus sites to maintain their minimum environmental flows. ii) As a whole, there were no significant changes in water qualities in all Ramsar sites over the period from 2014 to 2017. The Dalai Lake still suffered from disruptions to water cycles due to low inflows. Segments of the Qixing River in Heilongjiang province were severely polluted and <i>Aldrovanda spp.</i> spread wildly year after year. The Dongting Lake, the Wang Lake, the Shuangtai-Hekou wetland site, the Shengjin Lake, the wetlands of Zhalong and Momoge were still under pollution from nonpoint source runoff from their upstream watersheds. There were ten Ramsar sites under eutrophication pressure. iii) Invasive species was still a prevailing threat. Smooth cordgrass (<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>) widely settled at coastal wetland areas despite that wetland sites, such as the Chongming-Dongtan Birds Sanctuary and National Nature Reserve had removed the weed from many parts of the site. Freshwater Ramsar sites had a lower ecological stress from invasive plants than their coastal counterparts did and that they were colonized by many invasive animals, including red swamp crayfish (<i>Procambarus clarkii</i>), channeled apple snail (<i>Pomacea canaliculata</i>), (<i>Gambusia affinis</i>), and largemouth bass (<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>). iv) The total area of wetland at the Ramsar sites increased, thanks to the implementation of wetland restoration and protection projects, under which reclaimed aquaculture ponds and farming land had been converted to wetland and a small number of existing illegal industrial and residential settlements on reclaimed wetland had been tore down.</p> <p>b) In terms of the change of the total area of China's wetlands over the past three years, no latest update is available at the moment for the reason that an ongoing survey of land cover led by the Ministry of Natural Resources has proceeded to the last phase of data compilation and analysis. In this survey, wetland was for the first time identified as a type of land cover. Although wetland sites in China are altogether increasing in area, there has been a noticeable change in the composition of wetland types. Lakes and rivers are getting larger and deeper due to the</p>	

combined influences of climate change and hydrological projects of different kinds. This change may have a profound influence on China's wetland landscape. Other ecological stresses, such as pollution, wetland reclamation and large-scale intensive aquaculture are becoming less severe, thanks to a volume of efforts made by the government to tackle them.

8.6 Based upon the National Wetland Inventory if available please provide a figure in square kilometres for the extent of wetlands (according to the Ramsar definition) for the year 2020 and provide the relevant disaggregated information in the box below. This Information will also be used to report on SDG 6, Target 6.6, Indicator 6.6.1, for which the Ramsar Convention is a co-custodian.	E=836,596
	E= # Km ² ; G=More than # Km ² ; X= Unknown

8.6
According to the Ramsar definition and classification of wetlands, the disaggregated information on wetland extent is as follows:

Area by type of wetland				Total area by category of wetland
Marine/Coastal	Coastal wetland 57,959 Km ²			57,959 Km ²
Inland	Permanent freshwater rivers and streams 105,525.6 Km ²	Permanent freshwater lakes 85,938 Km ²	Shrub or open bogs, swamps, fens, marshes 217,340 Km ²	408, 803.6 Km ²
Human-made	Rice paddy fields 300,572.9 Km ²	Others 67,506.9 Km ²		368,079.8 Km ²
Total				836,596 Km ² (**)

Date of the inventory: 2013

Reference or link: http://klwee.iga.cas.cn/sywx/gxxx/201312/t20131202_143252.html
https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con_wet/con_wet_abt_gen/con_wet_abt_gen.html

****:** According to available information from the above-mentioned links of data sources, there were some parcels of recorded wetland unclassified into a specific category of wetland. This left the combined acres of the three major categories of wetland illustrated in this table 1,753.6 KM² short of the total coverage of China's wetland areas.

Note:

The minimum information that should be provided is the total area of wetlands for each of the three major categories; "marine/coastal", "inland" and "human-made".

If the data on inventories are partial or not complete, use the information that is available.

Guidance on information on national wetland extent, to be provided in Target 8 "National Wetlands Inventory" of the National Report Form can be consulted at:

<https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidance-on-information-on-national-wetland-extent>

Additional information: If the information is available please indicate the % of change in the extent of wetlands over the last three years. Please note: For the % of change in the extent of wetlands, if the period of data covers more than three years, provide the available information, and indicate the period of the change.

8.7 Please indicate your needs (in terms of technical, financial or governance challenges) to develop, update or complete a National Wetland Inventory

The approaches applied in wetland mapping may cause inaccuracy due to three possible reasons. The first is related to the resolution of remote sensing imageries. Low-resolution imageries give poor and coarse information that may be used for the identification, mapping and inventory of wetland sites. The imagery-based method for calculating wetland areas thus may have inevitable methodological errors. The second is pertinent to wetland use changes. The loss of a wetland, for example, may make it unrealistic to have it mapped out on a land use map. The third is relevant to the definition of wetland. The former State Forestry Administration had two nationwide surveys of wetland resources and the Ministry of Natural Resources is leading a new nationwide survey of land cover. The standards for wetland classification used in the three surveys differed, making the statistical results incomparable. This may require more efforts to compile wetland inventory data in an accurate and consistent way.

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}.*

[Reference to Aichi Targets 4, 6, 7].

<p>9.1 Is a Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) that promotes the wise use of wetlands in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i (If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned</p>
<p>9.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The State Council publicized a directive entitled the <i>Notice on Intensifying Coastal Wetland Protection and Land Reclamation Management</i> on July 25th, 2018.</p> <p>The Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources announced the <i>Action Plan for the Uphill Battles for Integrated Environmental Improvement of Bohai Sea</i> on December 12th, 2018.</p> <p>China unveiled the <i>Implementation Plan for the National Ecological Civilization Pilot Zone (Hainan)</i> on May 13th, 2019. The Plan urged the establishment of a coastal environment protection system to tackle the issue related to the rubbish on the beach and in the sea. This was the first time for the central government to call for such action.</p> <p>The Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) is doing its part in assisting getting the <i>Wetland Conservation Law</i> enacted. Specifically, the MEE is offering their inputs to the Environment Protection and Resources Conservation Committee of the National People's Congress on wetland management arrangements, wetland monitoring, law enforcement and compliance, and others. The MEE is taking part in conducting a review of national and local legislation on wetland protection and conservation. The review effort aimed to find core issues that concerned national and local stakeholders, identified key areas for legislation and put forward specific recommendations for the enactment of the would-be <i>Wetland Conservation Law</i>.</p>	

<p>9.2 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.5}{1.3.6}</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned</p>
<p>9.2 Additional information:</p> <p>On December 5th, 2017, the former State Forestry Administration issued its 48th administrative order, unveiling a total of 17 revisions to the <i>Regulations on Wetland Protection and Management</i>, which was issued in 2013. It was a timely response to new needs from advancing China's development strategies of eco-civilization and green growth.</p>	
<p>9.3 Are wetlands treated 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</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned</p>

9.3 Additional information:

The concept of watershed-based water resources management is becoming widely recognized, resulting in more and more new practices in terms of the conservation, allocation and wise use of water resources. The main highlights are: a) With the introduction of water resources management strategies for the sake of wetland conservation, the Chinese government put more efforts in predicting and monitoring water exploitation activities and their effects on wetland ecosystems and their associated biodiversity. In addition, environmentally sound uses of water resources were studied and promoted, so as to find optimal water allocation schemes for a watershed that allows the wetland ecosystems and their key ecological functions to be likely to retain their natural conditions into the future. b) The conservation and wise use of wetland was mainstreamed into a wide range of planning at national and sub-national levels concerning land use, ecological conservation and restoration, natural resources rehabilitation, water resources management, and river watershed and coastal wetland management. c) Efforts were made to identify the key barriers to river watershed management and possible solutions to get them removed. The solutions that had adopted include: i) development of integrated plans for the use of natural resources that can fully consider different needs for land use, water resources management, and wildlife conservation, so as to align river watershed management with wetland conservation; and ii) re-assessment of current land-use patterns and land use rights in river watersheds and making necessary adjustments based on the integrated plans. China now has seven watershed management bodies engaged in watershed-wide water resources management as facilitators, decision-makers and arbitrators.

Take the year of 2018. In that very year, wetland, as a key element of watershed management, became part of the scope of China's work on water resources management. In this respect, the following specific actions were taken: a) The Hebei government imported 1.2 billion cubic meters of water to key segments of the rivers of Hutuo, Fuyang and Nan Juma. This helped recover ecological functions of these rivers and increase the groundwater tables of the regions across which the rivers flow. In addition, wetland sites in different provinces, including Baiyangdian Lake, Hengshui Lake, Yongding River, Zhalong and Xianghai, also received water from other areas to keep their minimum environmental flows; b) Ecological restoration efforts were made at environmentally-degraded watersheds, such as the Yellow River, Tarim River, Hei River and Shiyang River, enhancing the ecosystem health of the wetlands there. The mainstream of the Yellow River kept a record for a 20-year period of not running dry all year round; the Juyan Lake in the downstream of the Hei River did not dry out for 15 years in a row; the Tarim River was brought back to life and the Shiyang River saw a slowdown of environmental quality deterioration; c) Water was sent to the Taihu Lake from the Yangtze River, so as to improve the ecological health of the Lake and its inflowing rivers. d) Freshwater was recharged to the Zhujiang watershed to reduce saltwater intrusion into coastal aquifers, helping secure the water supply for the cities of Macau and Zhuhai and the entire Zhujiang Delta. e) A water functional zone-based management arrangement was institutionalized. The structure helped facilitate water pollution prevention and control efforts and protect the headwaters areas serving as sources of drinking water. Thanks to the system, the quality of water in 76.9% of the water functional zones met their set standards in 2017, a big leap from 63.5% in 2012.

On December 14th, 2017, the former Ministry of Environmental Protection, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Water Resources jointly released the *Key Watersheds Water Pollution Prevention and Treatment Plan (2016-2020)*, outlining the identified high priorities for pollution management in each key watershed and for protecting aquatic environments in the Jin-Jin-Ji Region and the Yangtze River Economic Belt. This was the first nationwide watershed-based plan for water pollution prevention and control.

To address water scarcity in rural areas depends on economically sound allocation of available water resources and a higher degree of protection of water regimes, including promoting

wetland restoration and sustainable use. Small and micro wetlands are a good way to help achieve this goal. In addition, China is implementing the Sponge City Initiative, using constructed wetlands to store and purify rain runoff for better use of rainwater in urban watersheds.

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
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned

9.4 Additional information:

Current laws, regulations and policies encourage civic engagement and involvement in watershed planning and management. In May 2017, the National Development and Reform Commission issued the *Notice on Piloting Integrated Watershed-wide Water Management and Sustainable Development*, calling for the establishment of an innovative arrangement of watershed-wide water management that allows shared governance between the government, private sector and the public. Such a market-based management system can be operated by private sector with the guidance of the government and the involvement of the public. It can help improve the awareness of the public for green ways of living, including introducing water efficiency metrics and creating a supportive social environment for watershed planning and management.

On April 16th, 2018, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment approved and released the *Measures for Public Involvement in Environmental Impact Assessment*, regulating the public's rights to know, to be involved in, to be consulted with and to oversee environmental protection. The Central Committee of China Democratic National Construction Association proposed to introduce integrated watershed management approaches to the Yangtze River Watershed to tackle certain prevalent water issues there.

During the period from September 3rd to 8th, 2018, two sessions dedicated to a training project on the management of Ramsar sites were delivered by World Wildlife Fund China program at the Yangtze River Wetland Conservation Network Training Center of the Chongming-Dongtan Birds Sanctuary and National Nature Reserve in Shanghai. A total of 34 Ramsar site managers attended the six-day training project. The China National Office for the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention sponsored the training.

9.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.3} {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii	A
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

9.5 Additional information:

In the *National Plan for Responding to Climate Change (2014-2020)*, it is stated that “to strengthen wetland conservation, to improve wetland carbon storage capacity, and to start carbon storage pilot projects in coastal areas”. In June 2016, the former State Forestry Administration issued the *13th Five-Year Key Actions for Responding to Climate Change in Forest Management*, outlining the following wetland-related goals: i) It is imperative to ensure that the total area of the wetland in China is no less than 800 million mu (approximately 53 million hectares), so as to maintain wetland carbon pools; ii) To carry out wetland restoration projects in key regions, so as to improve wetland carbon storage capacity through optimizing the ecological structures of the restored wetland ecosystems and to increase their capacity to adapt to climate change; iii) to issue technical specifications on the calculation of the amounts of carbon sequestered in standing forests, wetland and harvested forest products while introducing a unified, standardized national system for carbon accounting and monitoring, so as to provide periodic updates on carbon emissions and sequestration. The would-be system will not only meet international rules, but also fit to China’s unique requirements. In addition, there are also plans to establish a carbon trading system and wetland eco-compensation mechanisms. All these efforts will contribute to helping China meet its national emissions-reduction goals.

The National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development made in 2017 a joint announcement of the *Notice on Building Pilot Cities Resilient to Climate Change*. The Notice called for increasing the cities’ capacity to adapt to climate change through a combination of measures, such as building more climate-resilient infrastructure and facilities and improving the roles of urban wetland ecosystems, like urban lakes, in addressing climate change. The efforts were first piloted in a group of 28 cities, including the cities of Huhehot, Dalian and Hefei.

Based on their prior efforts, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration established in 2018 a peatland survey mechanism. The mechanism can serve as a science-based methodology for China to make quantitative assessments of the contribution of wetland to addressing climate change.

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

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

9.6 Additional information:

Agriculture in China depends greatly on wetland. According to data available, 60% of the productions of grains, economic crops and livestock and 80% of the productions of freshwater fish and silkworms were provided by the agricultural wetland ecosystems. In addition, 86% of the water used for agricultural practices was obtained from wetland ecosystems, including natural lakes. Given these facts, the government has, since 2017, put forward a series of national wetland restoration plans, so as to secure a sustainable development in agriculture. Those plans included the *Wetland Conservation and Restoration Scheme*, the *Key Watersheds Water Pollution Prevention and Treatment Plan (2016-2020)*, the *Notice on Intensifying Coastal Wetland Protection and Land Reclamation Management*, and the *Opinions on Promoting Green Agricultural Development*.

<p>9.7 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:</p> <p>a) agriculture-wetland interactions</p> <p>b) climate change</p> <p>c) valuation of ecosystem services</p> <p>{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned</p>
	<p>a) A</p> <p>b) A</p> <p>c) A</p>

9.7 Additional information:

a) There is a close relevance between agricultural development and wetland management. The then Ministry of Agriculture and the National Development and Reform Commission, in conjunction with other cabinet-level agencies, issued the *National Sustainable Agriculture Development Plan (2015-2030)*, outlining, among others, planned actions. These actions to be undertaken included to implement projects regarding wetland conservation, aquatic ecosystems restoration and protection of wetland agricultural resources, and to ameliorate compensation mechanisms for wetland conservation. In this way it would help strengthen wetland conservation to support sustainable agriculture with wetland-dependent agriculture as an integral part of it. The key points stated in the Plan were underlined once again in the *Opinions on Adopting Innovative Systems and Mechanisms and Promoting Green Agricultural Development*, issued in 2017.

In January 2017, the former Ministry of Agriculture released the *Opinions on Advancing the Agricultural Supply-side Structural Reform*, pointing out that: i) to strengthen the protection of wild plants and rare germplasm resources, push forward in-situ conservation of endangered plants and the establishment of nature reserves, and carry out the third nationwide survey and sample collection of germplasm resources; ii) to speed up the transformation of fishery industry and boost agritainment and rural tourism industry; and iii) to promote water-saving agriculture development. All the above-mentioned reform efforts were related to wetland conservation and management.

On October 26th, 2018, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and the Ministry of Water Resources released the *Guiding Opinions on Pushing Forward the Treatment of Non-point Source Pollution in the Yangtze River Economic Belt*. This administrative directive set forth reducing the collective amounts of fertilizers and pesticides applied to agricultural fields in the region, with an intention to abate water pollution in rivers. More efforts to convert reclaimed cultivated lands and aquaculture ponds to original wetlands were also committed in the directive.

Provinces put forward their own implementation plans for the development of wetland-dependent agriculture. The city of Zhengzhou developed a work plan that put equal emphasis and priority on environmentally friendly aquaculture and wetland conservation. In Jiangsu province, agricultural wetland ecosystems turned into an integrated eco-agriculture pattern that allows raising ducks in paddy fields at land-water eco-tones while breeding ducks, fish and crabs in aquatic waters. It is actually a comprehensive and multi-dimensional eco-agricultural system with multiple agricultural production modes in symbiosis. This agriculture pattern can not only keep a higher diversity of species at a site but also help yield high-quality agricultural products. Such agriculture patterns yield accredited agricultural products. The Gaoyou duck, a waterfowl species shelduck genus Tadorna, is known as one of the three most famous duck breeds in China and are enlisted in the *List of National Livestock and Poultry Genetic Resources*. Hairy crabs produced from the Gaoyou Lake and double yolked duck eggs of Gaoyou are nationally recognized as products with geographical indication.

Thanks to the funding from GEF-funded programme “Main Streams of Life (MSL): Wetland Protected Area System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation”, China developed a set of wetland management policies or guidelines. They included the *Guidance on Fishery, Aquaculture and Other Agricultural Activities in and surrounding the Protected Areas*, the *Guidance on Water Pollution in Lakes, Rivers, Ponds, Reservoirs and Coastal Wetlands*, the *Technical Guidance on Drawing Ecological Red Lines for Wetland Protection*, and China’s *Wetland Ecological Red Lines Regulations*. Ramsar sites, like Dongzhaigang in Hainan province, drafted a series of management regulations to guide and standardize daily operations. Those

site-specific management regulations were as follows: *Size Limits on Fishery Products Harvested from the Coastal Areas and the Mangrove Wetlands Close to the Dongzhaigang National Nature Reserve*, the *Manual for Mangrove Restoration in Hainan Province*, the *Guidance on Community-based Ecotourism in Hainan Province*, and the *Guidance on Sustainable Fishery Practices for the Communities near the Dongzhaigang National Nature Reserve*.

b) China has since 2014 started a survey on the peatland in eleven peatland abundant provinces including Inner Mongolia and Sichuan. Up to now, six provinces has finished their work on the survey of the amounts of carbon stored in the peatlands. The former State Forestry Administration in 2016 developed the *Forestry Service Action Plan for Responding to Climate Change (2016-2020)*. The Action Plan had translated China's strategies and action plans for addressing climate change into feasible conservation measures, including integrating the goal of keeping the total area of China's wetlands no less than 800 million mu (approximately 53 million hectares) into the goal for the action plan.

China has also funded much fundamental research on the relationships between wetland and climate change. During the period from 2016 to 2020, the central government invested 618 million Chinese yuan (approximately 88.3 million US dollars) in such research projects. For example, the Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources of the Chinese Academy of Sciences studied the effects of wetland methane emissions on climate change and recommended policy responses. The conclusion of the research may help decision-makers to have a better understanding of the importance of conservation wetland in climate change mitigation. A research, unveiled by the Northeast Institute for Geography and Agro-ecology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in March 2020, concluded that the loss of marshland might lead to an increase of land surface temperature in the surrounding areas.

Climate change is a global issue. Chinese researchers have been conducting joint study with their counterparts around the world to propose informed conservation recommendations through understanding how it influences wetland ecosystems worldwide. The coastal research team of the Laboratory for Marine Geology of the Qingdao National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology, along with researchers in several countries including the United States, Denmark and Spain, launched a cooperation project named CROWN "Coastal-wetland Research On Warming Network" in 2018 with the installation of four global temperature monitoring stations at Panjin in Liaoning province, Dongying in Shandong province, Xinyanggang and Simaoyou in Jiangsu province respectively. The four on-site monitoring stations are located at coastal wetland sites, laden with vegetation consisting of either common reed (*Phragmites communis*) or smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*). These monitoring stations are part of a global network of coastal wetland monitoring with similar monitoring stations in multiple regions, including Florida coastal area, the Terres de l'Ebre region in Spain and the Skjern region of the Jutland Peninsula in Denmark. Data from all stations of the monitoring network will enable scientists to understand how wetland ecosystems at different latitudes and stages of ecological succession respond to climate change. The monitoring network is a good coastal wetland research platform for the world tackling critical issues regarding climate change.

c) With the implementation of abovementioned GEF-financed MSL programme, China explored efforts to research relevant to the valuation of wetland ecosystem services and developed the *Technical Specifications for Estimation of Wetland Ecosystem Services*. The issuance of the specifications may help it get out of the predicament that wetlands conservation policy was barely based on the values of wetland ecosystem services, which are surprisingly higher than the actual eco-compensation amounts and rarely recognized and accepted by the public. According to the technical specifications, the programme team also assessed the values of wetland ecosystem services in the Shengjin Lake in Anhui province and the wetland of Dongzhaigang in Hainan province and gave relevant conservation recommendations.

<p>9.8 Has your country submitted a request for Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention, Resolution XII.10 ?</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>9.8 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate How many request have been submitted):</p> <p>China kicked off the scheme of wetland city accreditation of the Ramsar Convention in 2017 with the introduction of national corresponding indicators and procedures. After a nationwide review of potential locations, it submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat a list of candidate cities for consideration.</p> <p>In 2018, six candidate cities proposed by China were accredited as Wetland City of the Ramsar Convention. They were Changde, Changshu, Dongying, Harbin, Haikou, and Yinchuan.</p> <p>In 2020, China further recommended seven candidate cities to compete for recognition and updated national indicators and procedures used for wetland city accreditation nomination.</p>	

<p>9.9 Has your country made efforts to conserve small wetlands in line with Resolution XIII. 21?</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>9.9 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate what actions have been implemented):</p> <p>Conservation of small and micro wetlands became one of the key areas of work for the National Forestry and Grassland Administration for the year of 2019. In line with the Administration's call for more efforts to manage and conserve small and micro wetlands, all provinces across the country have mainstreamed the conservation of small and micro wetlands into other conservation programmes, respectively entitled as "Wetland Parks Development", "Rural Areas Revitalization", "Beautiful Villages Development", "Conversion of Reclaimed Agricultural Land to Wetland", "River Ecosystems Restoration", and "Black and Smelly Waters Treatment".</p> <p>Small and micro wetlands provide multiple ecological services ranging from purifying wastewater to enriching landscape types to serving as entertainment sites. They were recognized by many regions, including Beijing, Hubei, Jiangsu, Chongqing and Shandong province, as an ecological approach to improving the environmental quality of human settlements and the living and working environments of all people. They were a most favorable practice for the promotion of creating better urban and rural environments for people to live in.</p>	

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.*

[Reference to Aichi Target 18]

<p>10.1 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)</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned</p>
<p>10.1 Additional information: (If yes please indicate the case studies or projects documenting information and experiences concerning culture and wetlands).</p> <p>With the support of the Fifth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, Hainan province made a good record of wetland culture ranging from the preservation of historical monuments dedicated to pioneer movements of mangrove conservation to wetland sustainable use patterns to the preservation of wetland crops. That helped inherit and carry on the time-tested theories and practices of ecological wisdom.</p> <p>During the implementation of the projects concerning Sponge City Initiative and Wetland City Accreditation, wetland culture was also extensively explored and meticulously recorded in a systematic way. For example, typical agricultural patterns including the mulberry cultivation, sericulture and fishing farming, integrated rice-fish farming, and rice-frog cultivation, are still in wide practice at the wetland site of Nicanglou in the city of Changshu, Jiangsu province. Nicanglou is a perfect miniature of the agricultural traditions prevailing in the south of the Yangtze River Delta. Zhejiang Huzhou Mulberry-dyke & Fish-pond System was acclaimed in 2017 as a globally important agricultural heritage system.</p>	
<p>10.2 Have the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands been used or applied such as</p> <p>a) stakeholders, including local communities and indigenous people are represented on National Ramsar Committees or similar bodies</p> <p>b) involvement and assistance of indigenous people's and community-based groups, wetland education centres and non-governmental organizations with the necessary expertise to facilitate the establishment of participatory approaches;</p> <p>(Resolution VII. 8) (Action 6.1.5)</p>	<p>a) B</p> <p>b) A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned</p>

10.2 Additional information: (If the answer is “yes” please indicate the use or application of the guidelines)

a) There has been neither community representatives nor aboriginal members on the National Committee for the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention though it is common for them serving on a project-based advisory or steering committee.

b) As advocators and promoters, community groups, wetland education centers and non-governmental organizations have always been being active in calling for participatory management of wetland. Apart from exposing the public to knowledge about civic engagement and involvement and participatory wetland conservation, they kept introducing innovative practices into China’s wetland community.

Chinese wetland conservation groups also made impressive progress in mastering and applying the approach of participatory governance. For example, the Xinjiang Shanshui Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Center, in partnership with Xinjiang Altai State-owned Forest Management Authority and Altai Liangheyuan National Nature Reserve Management Authority, launched an alternative livelihood project “Women Herders and Their Black Soap Bars”, aiming to protect wetland in the Altai Mountain Range through promoting traditional practices for making organic soap. One more example is Guangxi Biodiversity Research and Conservation Association (BRC). BRC has long been working together with local volunteer groups in the Beibuwan Gulf region on a coastline conservation project entitled *Horseshoe Crabs and Migratory Birds Conservation Plan*, which was highly recognized by IUCN experts for greatly advancing participatory coastal conservation.

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

A

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

10.3 Additional information:

China is on the way toward building a beautiful China and eco-civilization. In the course, good traditional practices of wetland use have been recognized, renewed and revitalized, thanks to the implementation of a wide range of activities. These activities included forming mangrove protection associations, developing plans for protecting mulberry dike and fishpond farming, celebrating wetland culture festivals and fish harvest festivals, wetland bird watching, and boosting wetland-dependent tourism in rural areas.

Of which, a traditional urban water supply network was widely used as a reference paradigm in the construction of sponge cities. This delicate network allows a city to make good use of its natural and semi-natural water bodies including rivers, lakes and ponds to filtrate and retain water. Such an extensive freshwater network can enable an urban aquatic ecosystem to provide multiple ecological services, including flood control, water purification, serving as wildlife refuges, and provisions of agricultural products and of spiritual and anesthetic values.

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1, 2, 13, 14]

<p>11.1 Have ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands been researched in your country, recorded in documents like State of the Environment reporting, and the results promoted? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii</p>	<p>C</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; C1=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>11.1 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, how many wetlands and their names):</p> <p>In 2017, Chinese scientists estimated that the values of the annual ecological services provided by the coastal wetlands were worth 501 billion Chinese yuan (or approx. US\$71 billion). Take Zhejiang province. The ecological services of all kinds generated by the coastal wetlands in the province fetched up to 21 billion Chinese yuan (or approx. US\$ 3 billion) with 14.1 billion Chinese yuan (or approx. US\$ 2 billion) of direct use values and 6.9 billion Chinese yuan (or approx. US\$ 1 billion) of indirect use values. As showed in the analysis, direct uses of costal wetland included coastal aquaculture, coastal tourism, water purification, safeguarding coastal, near-shore marine habitats and inland infrastructure, new land creation, carbon sequestration and oxygen production, nutrient accumulation and provision of habitats for wildlife. Of all indirect use values, coastal aquaculture accounted for the largest share of 42.36%, followed by coastal tourism and safeguarding coastal, near-shore marine habitats and inland infrastructure, making up to 25.97% and 18.035% respectively.</p> <p>Another 2017 research revealed that the economic value of the coastal wetlands in Hainan province for carbon sequestration estimated at 4.398 billion Chinese yuan per year (or approx. US\$ 644 million) and that the economic values provided by the province's natural coastal ecosystems were at 9.694 billion Chinese yuan (or approx. US\$1.38 billion).</p> <p>In June 2017, Xijiang released an assessment report on wetland ecosystems. The report, based on three years of assessment effort, indicated that the region's wetland ecosystems provided a wide range of ecological services valued at 247.5 billion Chinese yuan (or approx. US\$ 35.4 billion) per year.</p> <p>The annual value of the benefits delivered by the wetland ecosystems in Hebei province was worth 511.6 billion Chinese yuan (or approx. US\$ 73.1 billion). That is, every hectare of wetland provided ecological services annually valued at 543,200 Chinese yuan (or approx. US\$ 77,600).</p> <p>In 2020, the Jinlin Forestry and Grassland Administration publicized the <i>Second Jilin Wetland Ecosystem Services Assessment Report</i>, based on an effort launched in 2017. The report concluded that the region's wetland ecosystems provided ecological benefits of 275 billion Chinese yuan (or approx. US\$ 39.3 billion) per year, an average increase of 18.65 billion Chinese yuan from the previous level in 2013. The estimated monetary value of the natural wetlands was 189.5 billion Chinese yuan (or approx. US\$ 27.1 billion) per year, accounting for 68.9% of the total value of the wetland ecosystems in the province. The man-made wetlands had an estimated value of 85.5 billion Chinese yuan (or approx. US\$ 12.2 billion) per year, equivalent to a share of 31.1% of the total value.</p> <p>To standardize valuation methods for wetland ecosystem services, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration drafted in March 2019 the <i>Technical Specifications on Economic Evaluation of Wetland Ecosystems Services</i> for making more informed decisions.</p>	

<p>11.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>11.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Wetland is part of China's community rangers programme. The programme engages rural residents in the effort of wetland conservation and patrol, a way to increase their incomes. In addition, wetland restoration projects are also favorable to the disprivileged people, providing them with job opportunities.</p> <p>China is putting into action <i>the Wetland Conservation and Restoration Scheme</i> and <i>the Notice on Intensifying Coastal Wetland Protection and Land Reclamation Management</i>, so as to protect, restore and improve water environment. Some provinces also started taking action to secure water supply. For example, in November 2017, Shandong province issued the <i>Master Plan for Water Safety and Security in Shandong Province</i>, outlining a collection of specific objectives regarding water saving and supply in urban and rural areas, flood control and disaster management, protection of water environment, and water management modernization.</p>	
<p>11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>11.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):</p> <p>Socio-economic values of wetland resources are a mandatory part of the values of wetland to be assessed in the master plan for all Ramsar sites.</p>	
<p>11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19)? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>11.4 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):</p> <p>Wetland sites have become one of the popular destinations for recreation and entertainment and for school environmental education. This fact makes it necessary to understand the cultural values of wetland when drawing up a wetland management plan. In this way, it helps expose wetland to the public in a full and complete manner, making them get interested in and take part in wetland conservation and management. Preservation of traditional practices for mangrove protection in Hainan province and promotion of sustainable agricultural practices in Wetland Cities were good examples of saving cultural values of wetlands.</p>	

Target 12. Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation. {1.8.}

[Reference to Aichi Targets 14 and 15].

12.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>12.1 Additional information:</p> <p>According to the <i>Wetland Conservation and Restoration Scheme</i> by the State Council, all provincial-level regions have made their own action plans in the past four years. Take Shanghai as an example. The municipality's first priority, as planned, is to restore damaged wetland ecosystems in the protected areas and to consolidate coastal land based on the premise that at least 20% of the to-be-consolidated coastal land parcels should be used only for the purpose of wetland restoration and rehabilitation.</p> <p>With regard to wetland restoration in key watersheds, China has also drawn up integrated plans for action. For example, <i>the Action Plan for the Uphill Battles for the Conservation and Protection of the Yangtze River</i> was unveiled in 2019. This Action Plan aimed to take action to restore and conserve wetlands in eleven provincial-level regions, primarily focusing on the river's mainstream and primary tributaries and the major connecting lakes and reservoirs. The large-scale Action Plan is to be unfolded in the following riverfront provinces (or municipalities) of Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Jiangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Chongqing, Sichuan, Yunnan, and Guizhou.</p> <p>China has also given much attention on the development of specific plans for the restoration of important wetland ecosystems. For instance, China unveiled <i>the Special Action Plan for Mangrove Conservation and Restoration</i>, which was expected to be put into full implementation since 2020. "Hainan Mangrove Conservation and Restoration Project" was launched in March 2019. Six months later in November 2019, the Hainan Provincial Government approved its implementation plan entitled <i>the Implementation Plan for Strengthening Mangrove Conservation and Protection in Hainan Province</i>. The purpose of the Implementation Plan was to replace 2,000 hectares of aquaculture ponds/lakes with mangrove forests. The target goal of restoration was broken down into specific targets assigned to each county or city across the province.</p>	
12.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been effectively implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>

12.2 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if available the extent of wetlands restored):

China continues to improve ecological restoration in the Bohai coastal areas and implement the Blue Bays Campaign. Major projects of coastal conservation and restoration were also initiated addressing environmental protection and disaster prevention concurrently. These efforts will help China to establish a more diverse, resilient and nature-based coastal protection system. Since 2016, the Central Government has spent a total amount of 6.89 billion Chinese yuan (or approx. US\$ 1 billion) on the conservation of islands and seas. The investment helped a string of 28 coastal cities carry out their Blue Bays Programmes. Up to now, an estimated 12,000 hectares of coastal wetlands have been restored following the efforts of rectifying illegal land-use. Take Guangxi province. During the period from 2016 to 2019, the southwest province received central funding for its Blue Bays Projects implemented in the cities of Fangchenggang and Beihai. With the earmarked funding, the two pilot cities conducted a series of coastal projects ranging from protection and restoration of mangrove to conversion of reclaimed aquaculture farms to wetlands.

Since 2016, the Ministries of Finance, Natural Resources, and Ecology and Environment have carried out three batches of 25 projects under the Mountain-Forest-Farmland-Lake-Grassland Ecological Restoration Programme. The projects restored 4.52 million *mu*, or 30,133 hectares, of degraded wetland and created new wetlands totaling 145,000 *mu* (ca. 9,667 hectares). Yunnan province innovated an approach that integrated restoration of reservoirs and ponds, lakeshores and water bodies in an effort to improve the ecosystem services of the Fuxian Lake watershed. The plateau watershed saw an increase of 5,000 *mu* (ca. 333 hectares) in wetland habitat in addition to 110,000 *mu* (ca. 7,333 hectares) of newly-restored wetland. Hunan province restored 218,500 *mu* (ca. 14,567 hectares) of wetland at the Dongting Lake Nature Reserve by using both natural and artificial restoration approaches.

The *Action Plan for the Uphill Battles for Integrated Environmental Improvement of Bohai Sea*, issued in November 2018, made it clear that at least 6,900 hectares of fragmented or damaged coastal wetland should be consolidated or restored by the end of 2020. During the period from 2018 to 2019, the central government allocated funds from the Islands and Seas Conservation Grant to four provincial-level regions on the Bay of Bohai to support coastal wetlands there.

In 2018, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration and the Ministry of Finance gave wetland eco-compensation funds to eleven coastal regions for their wetland conservation and restoration. In addition, the National Development and Reform Commission invested funds from the central government budget in wetland conservation projects carried out in a chain of eleven coastal provincial-level regions, including the Yellow River Delta Wetland in Shandong province and the Zhanjiang Mangrove Wetland in Guangdong province.

In 2018, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration and the Ministry of Finance also allocated central fiscal funds to six coastal provinces, including Liaoning, Jiangsu, Fujian, Guangxi and Hainan, to demonstration projects on coastal wetland restoration and wetland eco-compensation. The investment motivated local governments and communities to take part in wetland conservation, contributing to improving the health of coastal ecosystems.

Similar attention has also been given to restoration and improvement of urban ecosystems. The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MHURD) piloted ecological restoration projects in 58 cities to seek city betterment and ecological restoration. As part of the pilot effort, the MHURD provided local governments with guidance in pushing forward restoring rivers, lakes and other wetlands and increasing forest/grass coverage in a systematic manner for a healthier urban living environment.

12.3 Have the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands and on Peatlands, climate change and wise use (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.11) been implemented including?	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
a) Knowledge of global resources	A
b) Education and public awareness on peatlands	D
c) Policy and legislative instruments	C
d) Wise use of peatlands	A
e) Research networks, regional centres of expertise, and institutional capacity	A
f) International cooperation	A
g) Implementation and support	A

12.3 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, the progress in implementation:

a) China has introduced the *Technical Specifications for Peatland Carbon Sequestration Survey* to the Science and Technical Review Panel for the Ramsar Convention. The technical guidance was designed for China's nationwide survey on peatland carbon storage, consisting of the mission, goals and technical conceptual framework. It also gave a detailed description of the technical principles developed for each and every survey step ranging from zoning a survey area to survey methods to data statistics and mapping to the delivery of accurate data. The technical document was developed in response to the need for assessing the amounts of carbon stored in China's peatland areas. This effort helped facilitate the establishment of a peatland database for China. It was expected that the database would serve as an information management platform, enabling China to make a complete and accurate estimate of peatland resources in a step-by-step way. The database would also provide rich basic data for making decisions on the protection, management and wise use of peatland. China's sharing of the technical specifications marked an effort to do its part in sharing data and tools in terms of wetland conservation.

c) In 2003, the city of Tonghua in Jilin province issued the *Tentative Measures for the Protection and Management of Peatland Resources in Tonghua City*. This was one of the earliest local regulations on peatland conservation and management.

d-f) On April 16th, 2019, the Chinese Society of Agronomy met with a group of experts of the International Peatland Society (IPS), led by Mr. Gerald K. Schmilewski, president of the IPS. The IPS delegation had an in-depth discussion with their Chinese counterparts on the development of the peatland industry in China and reached consensus on multiple issues.

The National Forestry and Grassland Administration and China Geological Survey established a joint mechanism for peatland survey. They had surveyed the peatland resources in six provincial-level regions, including Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, provinces of Gansu, Qinghai, Sichuan, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and Tibet Autonomous Region. In 2019, they carried out a comprehensive experiment on near-surface peatland with a geophysical exploitation method. This trial effort yielded a radar-based methodology, allowing accurate detection of peatland resources in the high-altitude permafrost regions of China.

The 2019 International Peatland Scientific Symposium on Peatland & the First China International Peatland Expo was held in the city of Qingdao on September 18th, 2019. Over 200 international and national people attended the event and shared their ideas on a series of themed topics, including peatland extraction for peat soil matrix and its subsequent environmental consequences, responsible peatland management and corporate social responsibilities. The symposium exposed the participants to a full picture of China's policies on peatland industry, the current status and perspective of the industry, and available applied techniques.

After an assessment of the total amount of carbon locked in peatland by region, Chinese researchers conducted a study in the Tibetan Autonomous Region concerning the physicochemical properties of typical peatland soils and their stoichiometry characteristics of carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus. This research, conducted during the period from 2017 to 2019, provided more science-based data for the conservation of peatland in the region.

g) In 2018, Jilin province drafted the *Action Plan for Peatland Conservation in the Changbai Mountain Range*. This Action Plan was to curb the shrinking of peatland cover and the degradation of peatland ecosystems, so as to keep the peatlands and biodiversity in the region well conserved.

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.
[Reference to Aichi Targets 6 and 7].

13.1 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	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>13.1 Additional information:</p> <p>On December 29th, 2018, revisions were made to the <i>Environmental Impact Assessment Law of the People's Republic of China</i> for the second time. The Law stipulates that all comprehensive basin-wide planning and construction plans shall evaluate their possible environmental impacts. Article 8 stipulates that any special plan regarding industry, agriculture, husbandry, forestry, energy, water resources, transportation, urban development, tourism and extraction of natural resources, hereafter altogether referred to as “special plans”, developed by any executive branch department and agency of the State Council or of all city-level governments and above, should be reviewed for potential environmental impacts before being submitted, along with its environmental assessment reports, for final approval of corresponding approving authorities.</p> <p>Article 16 stipulates that construction projects should be categorically managed based on the severity of its potential environmental impacts, specifically: i) projects that may cause severe environmental impacts should prepare their environment impact assessment reports with a full and complete statement of the potential environmental influences; ii) projects that may have slight environmental impacts should fill out the environmental impacts reporting form and give a specialized introduction to those environmental influences; iii) projects that may have minor potential environmental impacts should only need to fill out the environmental impacts reporting form.</p> <p>In November 2020, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment released the <i>Technical Guidelines for Assessing Environmental Risks of Economic and Technological Policies (Tentative)</i>. The technical instrument can help central and provincial government agencies analyze ecological and environmental risks associated with a wide range of policies concerning, among others, industry structure, manufacturing production, regional development, taxes and subsidies, pricing, and trade.</p>	
13.2 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	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Cases</p>
<p>13.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Please see the answer to Question 13.1.</p>	

Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17]

Target 15. Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention. {3.2.}

15.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i	A A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
<p>15.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):</p> <p>In 2017, China launched the Yancheng Initiative, calling for designating the tidal areas of the Yellow and Bohai Seas as a UNESCO World Heritage site as a natural site, so as to achieve the sustainable development defined in the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage by jointly protection of the tidal ecosystems.</p> <p>The National Forestry and Grassland Administration, in cooperation with other organizations, held 2019 annual meetings of the Yangtze River Wetland Protection Network and of China Coastal Wetland Conservation Network and the 2020 annual gatherings of the Yangtze River Wetland Protection Network and of the Yellow River Wetland Conservation Network. These activities led to the announcements of three declarations—the Xining Declaration, the Haikou Initiative, and the Changde Declaration.</p> <p>The Xining Declaration called for strengthening wetland conservation and restoration in the Yangtze River Watershed in an integrated approach through establishing better supporting mechanisms, maximizing the strengths of a string of organizations (including government agencies, academia and international organizations), and building up cohesiveness within and among wetland conservation networks for stronger influence in the international arena.</p> <p>The Haikou Initiative encouraged its sub-national governments at all levels to increase their recognition of the importance of coastal wetlands and further put their restoration on government agenda through establishing and ameliorating public participatory mechanisms and maximizing the roles of each member organization under the umbrella of China Coastal Wetland Conservation Network.</p> <p>The Changde Declaration call for working together to protect wetland biodiversity along the Yangtze River for the watershed's sustainable development. To that end, it proposed: i) to maintain conservation achievements through perfecting conservation measures; ii) to reach broad consensus on the importance of keeping the Yangtze River clean; and iii) to strengthen, based on successful practices, the Yangtze River Wetland Protection Network for breakthrough growth.</p> <p>Global Environmental Foundation approved GEF7 project of Strengthening the protected area network for migratory bird conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China, and will initiate the project in 2021. The Project will draw on the advanced concepts and practical experience of international migratory bird and coastal wetland conservation. It will establish a comprehensive conservation management system by promoting the construction of wetland conservation network on waterfowl migration routes in eastern China.</p>	
15.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}	A A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned

15.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

On December 7th, 2017, the Academy of Forestry Inventory and Planning of the then State Forestry Administration, the Hainan Forestry Department, the Haikou Municipal Government, the Hainan Development and Reform Commission and the United Nations Development Programme China Office co-sponsored a symposium entitled "Wetland Protected Areas International Symposium" in Haikou, Hainan province, thanks to the coordination and support from the GEF-funded programme of Main Streams of Life—Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation. This symposium provided a wonderful platform for the participants of national and international wetland experts to share their in-depth knowledge and best practices for wetland protected areas management. Key topics included the development of wetland policies and the establishment of wetland protected area system, wetland restoration and practical restoration models, wetland sustainable use patterns, wetland monitoring and survey techniques, wetland big-data platform and public participation, wetlands and global climate change.

In April 2019, the Mangrove Conservation Foundation offered a group of wetland managers and practitioners of China Coastal Wetland Conservation Network an opportunity to have a study tour to the South Korea. The study group visited a handful of excellent wetland education centers in Jeju Island and the city of Suncheon Bay. They also had full communication with their counterparts from local wetland management authorities and community committees on the establishment and management of a wetland education center. This study trip enabled the group to broaden their horizons, helping inspire their efforts to create paradigms of wetland education in China. The China Coastal Wetland Conservation Network is a conservation alliance, co-sponsored by the Wetland Department of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration and the Laoni Foundation.

The city of Yancheng in Jiangsu province hosted the Yellow and Bohai Seas Wetlands International Conferences, respectively, in 2018 and 2019. The conferences aimed to tap collective wisdom of a crowd of international and national experts and to draw valuable recommendations and solutions for better international cooperation in conserving the migratory bird habitat along the coastal areas of the Yellow and Bohai Seas.

The Mekong-Lancang Wetland Conservation and Protection Cooperation Forum was held in Kunming, Yunnan province, in July 2017. Over 70 participants from six countries in the Mekong watershed were present at the forum. They discussed and exchanged their opinions on various topics regarding wetland management, such as wetland ecological health assessment, techniques for wetland restoration, the management of Ramsar sites and wetland parks, wetland inventory and monitoring, and wetland education and outreach.

Over the period of 2017-2019, China hosted four international training sessions on wetland conservation. The training had 153 participants from 21 countries along the routes of "One Belt and One Road Initiative". The participants, either government officials or representatives from non-governmental organizations or wetland protected area managers, deepened their knowledge of wetland management through sharing experience and best practices among themselves.

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

16.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned
a) At the national level b) Sub-national level c) Catchment/basin level d) Local/site level (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)	a) A b) A c) A d) A

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):

a) China developed in 2009 the *National Action Plan for Wetland Conservation and Promotion*, due to be completely implemented by the end of 2020. In March 2016, the former Center for Wetland Management of the State Forestry Administration and World Wildlife Fund China Office made a joint release of a brochure named "Amazing Wetland: WWF China Environmental Education Curriculum". The brochure aimed to diversify approaches and concepts for environmental education in China. Over 1,200 wetland nature reserves and national wetland parks across China received hard copies, distributed by forestry departments in 31 provinces.

b) At the (sub-) provincial level: Every province celebrates World Wetlands Day with a diversity of environmental promotion activities to illustrate the specific theme for each year. Provinces also carried out some activities with their own characteristics on the theme of wetland education and engagement activities, including Wetland Conservation and Promotion Week, Bird Watching Festivals in provinces of Jiangxi (at the Poyang Lake), Hunan (at the Dongting Lake) and Hainan, Wetland Conservation Volunteers and Wetland City of the Ramsar Convention.

c) At the watershed level: World Wildlife Fund organized its 2019 training session for wetland ambassadors in July 2019. The training was designed to protect the Yangtze River through building up each wetland ambassador's strong connection with the source of water they consumes. An army of 15 teams of university students attended the training and would introduce what they had learnt from the training to other people during their summer holidays, helping improve the awareness of the public and encourage more people to be part of the wetland conservation and management community.

On November 3rd, 2019, the Mangrove Conservation Foundation organized a sub-event at the "China Nature Education Conference & Sixth National Nature Education Forum". The sub-event dubbed "Establishment and Management of Wetland Nature Education Centers" provided a good platform for the participants sharing their hand-on experience and international best practices on how to establish and maintain an up-to-date wetland education center.

The Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology initiated the project entitled "Let the Bird Fly", which has engaged a network of 48 bird watching societies in promoting wetland conservation.

d) Wetland education and outreach is a routine activity for a wetland management authority in China. Each wetland management authority annually celebrates wetland-related events including World Wetlands Day and Bird-Loving Weeks with a wide range of activities. It is far from rare for the wetland management authority to promote wetland conservation at schools, government organizations, and rural communities. Different types of communications media including internet, TV and social media platforms were used in the promotion efforts. Activities were highly attractive and innovative. For example, Jinzhi Media, entrusted by a GEF-funded wetland project in Anhui province, organized on August 27th, 2016, an outreach tour at the Chinese Alligator National Nature Reserve and its surrounding communities in the city of Xuancheng, Anhui province. The women-focused outreach activity received an audience of over 700 people (over 400 participants were female), who signed a banner with the message of "Protecting Natural Wetland, Building Eco-civilization". That was a pioneer effort for China to promote wetland conservation and gender equality in one single project.

<p>16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>E= # centres; F=Less than #; G=More than #; X=Unknown; y=Not Relevant;</p> <p>a) G>36</p> <p>b) X</p>
<p>16.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):</p> <p>a) According to available information on internet, by the end of 2019, there were 36 Ramsar sites with a visitor center/museum/science center, where visitors get services and information about a wetland site.</p> <p>b) The central and provincial governments have been investing certain funds in establishing centres of all kinds. Due to lack of statistics, the number of centres established at other wetlands is currently unknown.</p> <p>Given the current situation, China will involve the work of tallying the number of the centres built at its wetland sites into certain assessment or evaluation effort.</p>	

<p>16.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p> <p>a) A b) A</p>
<p>16.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <p>a) Government bodies have made it a practice to seek all stakeholders' full engagement and consultation when drawing up any wetland-related planning and management policies, in particular those at the national level. For example, in conjunction with the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Finance, the former State Forestry Administration unveiled in April 2017 the <i>13th Five-Year Wetland Protection Implementation Plan</i>, which set forth the national objectives for wetland management. On April 3rd, 2018, three government agencies consisting of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Water Resources, put forward the <i>Plan for Protecting Aquatic Biodiversity in Key Watersheds</i> to constrain the extraction and use of water resources. In February 2019, ten central government agencies including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the National Development and Reform Commission unveiled a joint directive entitled "<i>Multiple Opinions Concerning Advancing Green Growth in Aquaculture</i>" with an aim to retain environmental carrying capacity of aquatic ecosystems. The release of these national policies was due to elevated involvement and advocacy of concerned government agencies.</p> <p>b) The success of any application for a Ramsar site designation cannot be possible without effective participation of all relevant stakeholders. The local government that proposes a Ramsar site candidate never fails to consult, through meetings, relevant government agencies (including towns) and local communities about their concerns.</p> <p>When applying for a World Heritage designation for the coastal area of China's Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase I), the city of Yancheng held two international consulting conferences to hear opinions and suggestions from national and international stakeholders on a series of issues, including the geographic scope of the site, key conservation targets, feasible measures for sustainable development and for transboundary protection. Such efforts made it possible for the site being added to the World Heritage List eventually.</p>	

16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>16.4 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP13; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>a) China established a national committee in 2007. The chair of the Committee is the State Forestry Administration (now known as the State Forestry Administration after the 2018 government institutional reform as described at the beginning of the report). The vice chairs consist of five departments including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture (now known as the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs) and the Ministry of Environmental Protection (now known as the Ministry of Ecology and Environment) and the State Oceanic Administration (merged into the Ministry of Natural Resources in 2018). The other members include: the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Land and Resources (currently the Ministry of Natural Resources), the Ministry of Construction (now known as the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development), the Ministry of Transport, the State Tourism Administration (now known as the Ministry of Culture and Tourism), the Chinese Academy of Sciences and China Meteorological Administration.</p> <p>b) Since COP13, the committee has gathered multiple times to fulfill their functions and duties.</p> <p>c) The main responsibilities of the committee are as follows: i) to coordinate and advise relevant agencies upon the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in China; ii) to study and develop major policies and guidelines for China's implementation of the Ramsar Convention; iii) to coordinate and solve issues arising from the implementation of the Ramsar Convention; v) to discuss and review critical topics to be discussed at international negotiations related to the Ramsar Convention in addition to coordinating putting in action the resolutions and recommendations of the Ramsar Convention; and vi) to coordinate the application and implementation of international wetland cooperation projects.</p>	

<p>16.5 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>16.5 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP13; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>Established in 2015, China Wetland Conservation Association (CWCA) is to bring more people together to support the sustainable growth of wetland conservation in China. CWCA is open to any eligible entity and individual to become a member. The number of its members has kept increasing since its creation. For example, 94 entities and 314 individuals were enlisted as new members in 2017.</p> <p>CWCA convenes its council meeting once a year. It set up its first technical committee at its Fourth Annual Council Meeting held in November 2018. The technical committee is currently composed of a galaxy of 40 young and middle-aged Chinese experts and scholars, who are highly recognized for their expertise and influence in the community of wetland conservation. The Committee is mainly responsible for provision of consulting advice related to: i) plans and decisions concerning wetland conservation and development; ii) investment plans on major construction and research programmes of wetland conservation; and iii) the evaluation of the final deliverables of wetland research projects.</p>	
<p>16.6 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:</p> <p>a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p> <p>a) A b) A c) A</p>
<p>16.6 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>China's designated Ramsar Administrative Authority—the National Forestry and Grassland Administration—always keeps relevant ministries, departments, and organizations well informed of any latest decisions made by the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>The National Forestry and Grassland Administration also makes it a routine for the Ramsar site managers to submit a written report at least once a year in addition to periodic communication, either by phone or email. A Ramsar site manager should report to the Administration in a timely manner when any particular situation arises. In addition, the Administration keeps enhancing capacity and skills of the managers of China's Ramsar sites through organizing ad-hoc training.</p> <p>It is not rare for the Administration to invite senior leaders from IOPs and other ministries to attend activities linked to facilitating the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, such as World Wetlands Day celebratory activities, conferences and/or seminars related to wetland conservation and management. Smooth communication between these organizations, through telephone, fax, email and video conferencing, has been maintained.</p>	
<p>16.7 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP13? {4.1.8}</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No</p>

16.7 Additional information:

Every year, a lot of events are prepared to celebrate World Wetlands Day. Government agencies at different levels, relevant non-government organizations and corporates engage in these events, helping promote wetland conservation and wise use for more tangible government and individual actions. The National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA, formerly the State Forestry Administration) takes a leading role in the organization of national-level events. Over the past years, highlights of the events initiated by NFGA are as follows:

a) World Wetlands Day 2018: The main event for celebrating World Wetlands Day 2018 was unfolded at the Haizhu National Wetland Park in the city of Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. The event was presided over by Mr. Wang Zhigao, then Director General of the former Center for Wetland Management of the State Forestry Administration (SFA). Mr. Li Chunliang, Vice Administrator of the SFA and Ms. Masha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands delivered their speeches at the opening of the event.

At the event, a total of 84 national wetland parks received their accreditation certificates for passing their final performance evaluation at the end of their pilot periods. The event also witnessed the signature of a letter of intent, proposed by Guangzhou Haizhu National Wetland Park Management Authority and the Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology, for co-establishing a wetland society “China Wetlands Green Alliance”.

A group of young students from China and other countries read out an initiative, calling for protecting wetlands and for building a beautiful China before the participants toured an exhibit of China’s achievements in strengthening wetland conservation for a beautiful country.

b) World Wetlands Day 2019: The main event for World Wetlands Day 2019 was launched in the city of Haikou, Hainan province on January 18th, 2019. The event was hosted by the National Forestry and Grassland Administration and co-organized by the Haikou People’s Government and Hainan Forestry Administration. The ceremony had over 600 attendees from a diversity of sectors, including Chinese wetland management authorities at different levels, representations of international organizations in China (e.g. UNDP, IUCN, WWF and CI), media press, volunteers and others with an interest in environmental protection. Ms. Reiko Litsuka, Senior Advisor for Asia-Oceania, Secretariat of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands delivered an opening speech at the event, calling for stronger efforts in the face of rapid loss of wetland resources worldwide.

During the gathering, a fresh report “Ecological Condition of China's Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)” was released. Ramsar site accreditation certificates were awarded to a group of eight wetland sites, congratulating them on being acclaimed as important international wetlands. In addition, accreditation certificates were awarded to 18 national wetland parks, marking their status as a legal protected area. Shanghai Chongming-Dongtan National Nature Reserve, Haikou Wetland Conservation and Management Bureau, and Guangzhou Haizhu National Wetland Park received awards for their outstanding efforts in ecological conservation and that the Apple Inc. (China) was greatly thanked for its sponsorship of “China and Wetland Conservation Outstanding Award”.

The short video that was produced for China’s application of the International Wetland City of the Ramsar Convention and shown at the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP13) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, was also played at the event, showing to all participants the breathtaking beauty of these international wetland cities. The six cities included Changshu in Jiangsu Province and Changde in Hunan Province, Haikou in Hainan Province and Dongying in Shandong Province, Yinchuan in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, and Harbin in Heilongjiang Province.

Participants also had a site visit to the Wuyuan River National Wetland Park in the city of Haikou. At the park, they took part in volunteer work along with the park’s undergraduate volunteers

from China and South Korea.

c) World Wetlands Day 2020: In line with the requirements for fighting against the covid-19 pandemic, the main event for World Wetlands Day 2020 was delayed though a few provinces, such as Sichuan and Qinghai, launched their own celebrating activities.

16.8 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP13 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}	A
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned

16.8 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):

In November 2016, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the UNDP-GEF China Hainan wetlands project organized a seminar on wetland monitoring techniques and optimal management modes. The purpose of this seminar was to improve wetland practitioners' capacities for wetland monitoring and management and for developing priority actions and better patterns of wetland stewardship.

The Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the Chinese Academy of Sciences released the *Red List of China's Biodiversity* and *Catalogue of Life in China* during the 25th anniversary celebratory event of the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22nd, 2018. The Red List identified the Yangtze finless porpoise (*Neophocaena asiaeorientalis*) critically endangered rather than endangered, calling on the public to care about aquatic biodiversity and protect key wetlands.

To foster a social atmosphere valuing and engaging in wetland conservation, the city of Haikou in Hainan province conducted in 2018 a series of campaigns at factories, urban and rural communities, local governments, schools and universities, and open public places. Those efforts aimed to facilitate Haikou's application to be accredited as a wetland city by the Ramsar Convention. The city also saw the establishment of a chain of grassroots environmental organizations including the Haikou Wetland Conservation Society, the Hainan Sustainable Technology Development and Research Center for the Wise Use of Fishery Resources, and the Hainan Squirrel Classroom and Nature Education Studio. These environmental groups played a role in promoting wetland conservation to the public. Furthermore, the coastal city also picked three to five schools from those located next to protected wetland, including the Haikou Dongzhaigang National Nature Reserve, to build them as wetland schools. The students in the wetland schools were encouraged to spread the message of wetland conservation to more grownups. To this end, the city organized a team of wetland experts and environmentalists for developing an advanced edition of the textbook entitled "Living Next to Mangrove Forests" for students in grades 4-6 after an elementary version for students in grades 1-2 went to press.

To inspire public interest in wetland conservation, a variety of activities were held by the city of Haikou, such as wetland knowledge competition on TV for university students, wetland photo contests, youth volunteer programs, nature diary contests, drawing nature, and bird watching. For example, one composition contest designed for the city's middle and high school students was about "Wetland and Me". Wetland experts and conservationists were also invited to schools at least once a month to talk about wetland conservation. Staff and volunteers from local conservation organizations also paid visits to remote villages to promote wetland protection regulations and laws. Last but not least, the city also invited wetland professionals to train its municipal government cadres to enhance their awareness for wetland conservation.

In July 2019, China Wetlands Association and Jinlin Forestry and Grassland Department held a training session, entitled "Wetland Conservation and Education", in the city of Dunhua, Jilin province. This training focused on topics such as public environmental education, popular science education, wetland conservation, and the responsibilities of the wetland information liaison.

In August 2019, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration and the Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology jointly held a training session on National Wetland Park Establishment and Management. The training activity gave a learning chance for 104 participants from over 20 provinces.

In December 2019, the Internet News and Information Bureau of Cyberspace Administration of China launched an online campaign of wetland conservation, entitled "Eco-civilization @ Wetlands". In addition to the Promotion Center of the National Forestry and Grassland

Administration, a group of ten provincial equivalent organizations in, among others, the provinces of Tianjin, Heilongjiang, Zhejiang became the local partners of the campaign. These organizations fully reported pleasant changes in society and economy due to China's efforts to wetland conservation and restoration. The campaign effort will present China's experience in wetland conservation in an almost unbroken panorama.

China developed its Wetland Conservation and Protection Training Manual. It consisted of eleven chapters as follows: (1) Basic Theoretical Knowledge of Wetland Biodiversity Conservation; (2) Internationally Importance of Wetlands Criteria and Monitoring Plan; (3) Wetlands Resources Monitoring; (4) Wetlands Assessment; (5) New Techniques & Tools to Be Employed in Wetland Conservation (UAV, GPS, APP); (6) Outline of Report on Wetland Monitoring & Inventory; (7) Techniques & Models of Wetlands Restoration and Habitats Rehabilitation; (8) Sustainable Use of Wetlands; (9) Public Awareness and Nature Education; (10) Application, Implementation and Management of National Wetland Programme; and (11) Wetland Ecosystem Management.

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

17.1	A
a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2018, 2019 and 2020? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i	A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
b) If 'No' in 17.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:	
n/a	

17.2	B
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; B=No
17.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities):	
n/a	

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	A A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
<p>17.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP12):</p> <p>In 2019, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration successfully delivered a wetland protection and restoration project, funded by the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund. The project provided advanced seminars and training to help the sharing of wetland conservation experience and to encourage further discussions on how to improve the Environment in the Lancang-Mekong Region through embracing appropriate watershed-based wetland restoration approaches.</p> <p>NFGA has, since 2017, been started hosting training sessions designed for international wetland practitioners from many continents, including Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America for a three-week training program of wetland conservation in China.</p> <p>In 2019, NFGA also held a training session on wetland conservation and management techniques in Uganda, aiming to explore the possibility of establishing cooperative mechanisms with African countries in the field of wetland conservation.</p>	

17.4 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii	A A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant; Z=Not Applicable
<p>17.4 Additional information:</p> <p>Environmental impact assessment and proposed mitigation measures or strategies are a mandatory section of any proposed development project to be funded by China.</p>	

17.5 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}	A A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
<p>17.5 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP12):</p> <p>China has been active in channeling international funding for wetland conservation and management. Composed of seven projects, the "Main Streams of Life (MSL): Wetland Protected Area System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation Programme" received a grant of 26 million US dollars over the period from 2013 to 2018. The MSL programme was well implemented and achieved significant results. Up to now, four projects under the MSL programme have finished their final evaluations. The four projects, respectively implemented in the Greater Khingan Mountains Range and the provinces of Anhui, Hubei, and Hainan, were scored as "Satisfactory" by independent evaluators at the end of their implementation phases.</p> <p>In 2016, GEF approved to give a grant worth three million US dollars to Sichuan province for expanding and strengthening the management of its wetland protected area system. In 2019, the project entitled "Strengthening the Protected Area Network for Migratory Bird Conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China" became one of the first projects funded by GEF during its seventh four-year investment cycle. This GEF7-funded project is to bring in ten million US dollars to China's wetland conservation.</p> <p>In addition to international grants, provincial and local governments are encouraged to use international loans to finance wetland conservation projects. In 2016, Hebei province received a composite loan of 12 million euros provided by the German Government through KfW Development Bank for a project entitled "Hengshui Lake Conservation and Management", planned to be fully implemented until June 2020. In 2018, Sichuan province obtained a KfW loan worth 40 million euros from the German Government for resources recycling use and wetland conservation in the Zhoujiaba section of the Kaijiang River in Luojiang District, Deyang City. This project was designed to protect and restore wetland parks, to transform wastewater treatment plants and to build a "carbon zero" development.</p>	
17.6 Has any financial support been provided by your country to the implementation of the Strategic Plan?	A A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable

17.6 Additional information (If “Yes” please state the amounts, and for which activities):

As indicated in the *Thirteenth Five-Year Implementation Plan for China’s Wetland Conservation*, released in 2017, the planned investments in wetland conservation for the period of 2016-2020 was expected to exceed those for the previous five-year period.

Over the five year period from 2016 to 2020, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) has allocated special grants to wetland programmes carried out at Ramsar sites and national wetland protected areas. The earmarked funds were for the purposes of wetland management and conservation. As a result, a combined 72,900 hectares of degraded wetland areas located at 51 wetland sites were restored. They included, among others, the Dongting Lake in Hunan, the Poyang Lake in Jiangxi, the Liaohe River Delta in Jilin, the Minjiang River Estuary in Fujian, the Caohai wetland in Guizhou and the first bend of the Yellow River in Qinghai. The funds also helped these wetland sites put up office buildings (totaling 18,200 square meters of space), 8,544 boundary stones or pillars, 1,690 kilometers of patrol roads, 143 monitoring stations, and 3,614 sets of equipment for multiple purposes including conservation, research, monitoring, and environmental interpretation.

An additional investment from the central fiscal budget was further given by the NDRC to the implementation of Phase II of the Three-River Source Ecological Conservation and Restoration Programme with the aim of pushing forward wetland conservation and restoration in the headwaters of multiple rivers and lakes.

Provincial and local governments at all levels also channeled more funds to wetland conservation and management. Shandong province allocated certain amount of provincial fiscal funds to wetland conservation and management in its fiscal year 2020. The city of Xiamen established in June 2020 its Wetland Conservation Center. The new organization was reportedly to provide, over the next three years, financial aid to 38 wetland conservation projects.

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

<p>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</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>18.1 Additional information:</p> <p>As China’s designated administrative authority, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration often invite relevant national focal points for other international conventions to attend meetings or events relevant to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, such as celebration of the World Wetlands Day and wetland management seminars. The national focal points are also kept in touch through a variety of ways including official notices, phone calls, and email.</p>	

<p>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</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>18.2 Additional information:</p> <p>China has long established productive cooperation in wetland conservation with multiple global bodies including UNEP, UNDP, FAO and GEF. In 2013, the programme entitled “Main Streams of Life (MSL)—Wetland Protected Area System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation Programme”, co-executed by UNDP and FAO and implemented by the then State Forestry Administration and relevant provincial government agencies, received funds from GEF. Besides the MSL programme, China teamed up with these organizations and received as much as 16 million US dollars for three projects regarding wetland conservation. The projects aiming to conserve globally significant biodiversity are as follows: “Expanding and Strengthening the Management of Wetland Protected Area System in Sichuan Province”, “Strengthening the Protected Area Network for Migratory Bird Conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China”, and “Strengthening Marine Protected Areas in Southeast China”.</p> <p>With full consultation, the executive board of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) unanimously voted the creation of China Chapter in June 2017. The new body is affiliated to the Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology (NIGA) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Mr. Lv Xianguo, a researcher with the NIGA, was elected as chapter president. SWS’s China Chapter is not just a symbol of international recognition and appreciation of China’s contribution to wetland science and international cooperation, but also a new platform for Chinese wetland researchers to play a more responsible role in advancing wetland science.</p>	
<p>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).</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>

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

After its support for the Tenth International Wetlands Conference held in Changshu in 2016, WWT has provided China with ongoing technical assistance related to wetland conservation. In November 2017, a group of WWT specialists gave the Guangzhou government their advice on the management of wetland ecosystems. The organization, in partnership with the Ecology Institute of the University of Nanjing, co-organized in August 2019 the third session of "Wetland Restoration and Management International Training" and showed to the trainees at the E'rguna National Wetland Park how to apply their learning in practice.

UNDP China program has offered great assistance to China with seeking international funds for wetland management. Over the past four years, it has helped China obtain a sum of 16 million US dollars grant from the GEF for advancing China's efforts to protect migratory birds along flyways, the wetlands in Sichuan province and coastal biodiversity in Southeast China. More details can be found in the additional information given to Question 18.2.

UNEP and China Energy Conservation and Environmental Protection Group signed a memorandum of understanding in Beijing in September 2017, unveiling their future cooperation in promoting urban energy efficiency, in introducing best practices and technologies to One Belt and One Road Initiative, and in engaging into international environment governance.

The Ministry of Natural Resources became an IUCN member organization of government in December 2019. The Ministry will work together with IUCN in a couple of areas, such as mega-cities and their watersheds, biodiversity conservation, forest landscape restoration, and the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas. Such cooperation is definitely good news for wetland conservation in China.

WWF has been showing great interest in wetland conservation in China. On top of the ongoing efforts to coordinate the Yellow River Wetland Conservation Network and the Yangtze River Wetland Conservation Network, WWF-China also signed in 2018 a memorandum of understanding on wetland conservation with the city of Changde for better conservation and wiser use of wetland resources. In July 2019, the non-governmental organization launched its environmental campaign programme entitled "Wetland Ambassadors in Action", focusing on wetland conservation along the Yangtze watershed.

WWF has maintained a long-term cooperation with the Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology (NIGA) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in the protection of wetlands and rare and endangered waterbirds (e.g. oriental white stork (*Ciconia boyciana*) and red-crowned crane (*Grus japonensis*) in the watershed of Heilongjiang River. Highlights of their joint efforts include: a) Conducted a research, entitled *Wilderness of Rivers*, to promote the protection of the wetlands in the basin of the transboundary river of Heilongjiang. The effort was a collaborative endeavor among the NIGA and three branch offices of WWF in Northwest China, the Russian Far East and Mongolia; b) Teamed up with the Northeast China Programme Office, Cargill, the Coca-Cola Company in researching ecological and water footprints in corn plantation with the aim of providing science-based information for the sustainable development of agriculture in the region; c) Installed artificial nests for oriental white storks and pioneered the tracking of the species' routes of movement with satellites in the Sanjiang Plain region; and d) Used man-made nests as shelter for wild Mandarin ducks (*Aix galericulata*), making a great contribution to enhancing local citizens' attention on the protection of waterbirds.

Wetland International China has been playing an active role in enhancing awareness for wetland conservation. It made great contribution to environmental education in primary and middle schools and to promoting the project of international wetland cities. In 2018, a group of five schools, including the Haikou Changliu Middle School and the Haikou Yingcai Primary School,

were awarded the title as “Wetland School”.

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}	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>18.4 Additional information (If ‘Yes’ or ‘Partially’, please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):</p> <p>With the established wetland conservation networks across the watersheds of the Yangtze River, the Yellow River and across China’s coastal regions and the Hainan Mangrove Protected Areas Alliance, China saw a new wetland conservation network covering an area of nine cities in the middle reach of the Yangtze River in June 2016. The city members of the brand-new network, including Nanchang, Hefei and Jiujiang, committed to make collaborative efforts in multiple areas, such as working out overarching planning for wetland conservation, joint monitoring of winter migratory birds, collective advocating for favorable policy on wetland conservation for the area. In May 2017, China had a national wetland park pioneer alliance, a new platform for wetland park management that encourages knowledge exchange and cooperation and inspires innovation and best practices. In June 2020, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Nature Education Alliance was formed in Guangdong province with the aim of promoting the conservation of mangrove and marine ecosystems. By the end of 2017, the “Let Birds Fly” project funded by SEE, a Chinese grassroots environmental NGO, had a membership of over 20 local conservation organizations.</p>	

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>18.5 Additional information:</p> <p>The National Forestry and Grassland Administration completed a comprehensive survey on China’s Ramsar sites. The Administration further unveiled two assessment reports entitled “White Paper on the Ecological Conditions of China’s Wetlands of International Importance” in 2019 and 2020 respectively. The evaluation reports are open-assessed and available online.</p>	

18.6 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i	A A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
<p>18.6 Additional information:</p> <p>All pieces of a transboundary wetland were identified in the second national survey of wetland resources completed in 2013. There are no further updates, for no new survey data of wetland resources has yet been gathered.</p>	

<p>18.7 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</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>18.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):</p> <p>After the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Sino-Russian Transboundary Protected Area Network in the Amur-Heilong River Basin in June, 2016, the two neighboring countries held a roundtable meeting entitled "Protect Ecological Environment of Transboundary Rivers" in May, 2017. They reached an agreement on extending bilateral cooperation of transboundary environmental protection to the following areas: to establish a better transboundary natural protected area network, to conduct joint monitoring of wildlife, and to share conservation information.</p> <p>In June 2017, China and Kazakhstan governments signed an agreement on jointly establishing a shared sediment removal sluice at the segment of Almali on the Horgos River. The two countries signed in November 2017 another agreement on a project concerning collaboratively renovating a water diversion sluice on the Sumbe River and celebrated the completion of the project in April 2019. A group of experts from China and Kazakhstan also launched a research project—"Sino-Kazakhstan Transboundary Rivers Management", aiming to put forward better mechanisms for managing transboundary rivers—the Irtysh River and the Ili River by looking into the issue from a broader perspective involving all countries in Central Asia.</p> <p>Transboundary water resources management and information sharing is one of the six priority areas identified under the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation arrangement. According to the multifaceted cooperation mechanism, all of the six member countries signed a memorandum of understanding on China provision of hydrological information of the Lancang River in flood season to the other member countries. A capacity building training session, the LMC Workshop on Flood and Drought Management, was held in the city of Dali, Yunnan province on December 17-20, 2018. China later expressed at the fifth Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting, held in February 2020, that it was ready to actively consider sharing whole-year hydrological information of the Lancang River with Mekong countries, to ensure reasonable and sustainable use of water resources across the whole watershed.</p> <p>China and India extended their memorandum of understanding for the third time in 2018 on the provision of hydrological information of the Yaluzangbu/Brahmaputra River in flood season by China to India. In the same year, a work plan for implementing the MOU was also approved by the two countries.</p> <p>China's Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase I) were inscribed on the World Heritage List in July 2019, thanks to international support from relevant experts from the countries along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF).</p>	

18.8 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii	A A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
<p>18.8 Additional information:</p> <p>China started international cooperation in the field of research and conservation of migratory birds back in 1980s with the successive signing of Sino-Japan Agreement on Conservation of Migratory Birds and China-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement. In 1982, it further established a national bird banding center (http://www.chinanbbc.net), serving as a platform for marking birds and sharing data of their migration. In 2008, China was admitted to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, enabling it to share experience in study, conservation and management of migratory birds with other members of the network. In July 2019, as a critical stopping-over site for migratory birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, the first chain of coastal wetlands in Yancheng were added to the World Heritage List as Phase I areas of the Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf.</p> <p>The Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology (NIGA) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences hosted the <i>4th International Conference of Resources, Environment and Regional Sustainable Development</i> on June 28th, 2018. There were over 200 prominent researchers and experts in geography and ecology from countries, including Russia and China, attended the conference. The participants had in-depth discussion and exchange on a series of topics, including the current status of water and soil resources in the northeast Asia and transboundary conservation and environmental protection. They also brainstormed to come up with strategies for environmental protection and sustainable development in the region. During the conference, the <i>Changchun Declaration</i> was announced—aiming to enhance a more effective use and protection of natural resources in the Amur River Basin.</p>	

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

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	<div>A</div> <div>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</div>
<p>19.1 Additional information:</p> <p>With the support of GEF funding, China completed its first assessment of training needs of its wetland workforce. The assessment results, based on a group of 293 questionnaire recipients, concluded that professional training was in great demand. The following training components, listed in a descending order of demand, are among those needed the most: 1) Techniques and approaches for wetland monitoring and survey; 2) Techniques and models for wetland restoration and habitat rehabilitation; 3) Public awareness and nature education; 4) Basic theories on wetland biodiversity conservation; 5) Application of new techniques & tools to wetland conservation (e.g. unmanned aerial vehicle (VAV), Global positioning system (GPS), APPs); 6) Application, implementation and management of national wetland programmes; 7) Waterbirds identification and survey protocols; 8) Tips for conducting patrol and law enforcement in wetland protected areas; 9) Sustainable use of wetland; and 10) Outline of reports on wetland monitoring & inventory.</p>	
19.2 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes?.	<div>A</div> <div>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</div>
<p>19.2 Additional information: If you answer yes to the above please provide information on which mechanisms and materials:</p> <p>Environmental education is an integral part of school education in China. Wetland conservation and sustainable use is one of the modules for the existing environmental education programmes for schools. Compulsory environmental education at schools can be attributed to the release of a series of national policies, including <i>the Outline of China's National Plan for Medium and Long-term Education Reform and Development (2010-2020)</i>, <i>the Implementation Plan for Environmental Education at Primary and Secondary Schools</i>, and <i>the Measures for Designation and Management of a National Environmental Education Site for School Students</i>. Over the four years from 2015 to 2019, there were 13 wetland sites inscribed as National Environmental Education Sites across China. On the list included the Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve in Shandong province, Hangzhou Xixi Wetland and Xuanmenwan Wetland Park in Zhejiang province, Haizhu National Wetland Park in Guangdong province, Egret Bay Wetland and Qionghai Wetland in Sichuan province and A'ha Lake in Guizhou province.</p> <p>A total of 20,000 school students in 60 groups had a study tour of the wetland site of Xixi in the spring and the fall of the year of 2017. The urban wetland also hosted a campaign entitled "Enjoy Nature through Our Wetlands" that year, seeing another 30,000 student visitors present at the events of the campaign, including a nature diary contest and experiencing bird watching.</p> <p>The management authority of the Egret Bay wetland in Sichuan province shot a short video and developed an environmental education brochure named "A Guide to Tour the Egret Bay Wetland", aiming to help school students have a better understanding of the wetland and get interested in wetland conservation. The wetland is popular among school students for the reason that it is an ideal site to showcase wetland wastewater treatment facilities, biodiversity and scenery of wetland, and wetland eco-agriculture.</p>	

<p>19.3 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP13? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>a) G=30</p> <p>b) G=130</p> <p>E=# opportunities; F=Less than #; G=More than #; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>19.3 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>Establishing a capable wetland management team has long been an objective for the Chinese government. Since COP13, government agencies and non-governmental organizations have made collaborative efforts to enhance, based on their needs, the competency of wetland management practitioners. Driven by their priorities, both the central and provincial government bodies responsible for wetland conservation and management conducted at least one training session or two every year. Non-governmental organizations also made the best use of their competitive advantages in competency enhancement. The training programs were diverse in terms of training topics delivered, ranging from theoretical knowledge of wetland ecology to conservation practices to civic engagement and involvement. Below are selected highlights:</p> <p>The Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Yanbian Prefecture of Jinlin province jointly held a training session entitled “Wetland Conservation and Wise Use” on May 15th-19th, 2017. A group of 25 government officials responsible for wetland conservation and management attended the training and had productive discussions with invited lectures on training themes, including certain critical issues concerning wetland science, basic theories on wetland science, methods for wetland survey and monitoring, planning and management of a national wetland park. This training enriched their understanding of wetland science and improved their recognition of the importance of wetland conservation.</p> <p>WWF China had a training session dubbed “Integrated Wetland Management” at the Yangtze Wetland Conservation Network International Training Center located at Beibayao in Chongming-Dongtan Island on June 12th-17th, 2017. This seven-day training program received 21 participants from protected areas of wetland in the Yangtze River watershed, Amur/Heilong eco-region complex and sub-alpine regions.</p> <p>On September 26th, 2017, the second session of National Wetland Parks Management Training was launched in the city of Changshu, Jiangsu province. Over 80 forestry staff from 17 provincial regions, including Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang, attended this training focusing on wetland environmental education.</p> <p>On June 23rd, 2018, the Laoshan community in the township of Luoling in the city of Anqing hosted a training program designed for community wetland rangers. This program, an activity of a GEF-funded project implemented in Anhui province, gave over 100 community wetland rangers a clear understanding of how to comply with applicable laws and regulations in their patrolling of wetland, such as <i>Anhui Wetland Conservation Regulations</i> and the <i>Regulations on Wildlife Conservation</i>.</p> <p>The Management Authorities of Taihu Lakeshore Wetland Park and of Taibei Guandu Natural Park kicked off their collaborative program named “Wetland Talents Development Program at the Taihu Lakeshore Wetland Park” on November 27th, 2018. The three-day training activity was specially developed for Taihu wetland park interpreters, aiming to improve their interpretation skills and capacity.</p>	

The Hubei Provincial Forestry Department organized a training session on “Wetland Conservation and Wise Use” at the Tianfu National Wetland Park located in the city of Kunshang, Jiangsu province from May 28th to June 1st, 2019. Designed for wetland stewards in the Hubei region, this training program exposed over seventy attendees to wetland knowledge, such as the conservation and management of Ramsar sites, best practices for wetland parks management ranging from planning to day-to-day operations, and a summarized overview of the development of wetland parks in China. The training participants were agency heads from national wetland parks and Macheng City Forestry Bureau.

During the period from June 11th to 13th, 2019, the Ningxia Wetland Conservation and Management Center kicked off its first session of training on wetland conservation and management in the capital city of Yinchuan. This training saw about 120 wetland managers and specialists learn how to put into action the *Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region Wetland Conservation and Restoration Work Plan*.

The Yunnan province held a province-wide workshop on wetland conservation and associated tools and techniques from June 27th to 28th, 2019. Soon after the workshop, its prefecture of Wenshan organized a prefectural meeting with a group of 20 participants from eight county-level forestry departments. At the meeting, they discussed how to translate the provincial wetland conservation and restoration work plan into action, including how to identify and register wetland parcels in compliance with general recommended procedures.

On July 11th, 2019, China Wetlands Conservation Association and the Jinlin Forestry and Grassland Department jointly held a training course entitled “Wetland Conservation and Education” in the city of Dunhua, Jilin province. The purpose of this training was to strengthen the website of Wetlands in China and the team of wetland information liaisons, so as to lure public support for wetland conservation through encouraging the participation of individual volunteers.

The municipality of Tianjin gave a training course on wetland conservation and management skills at the New Coastal District from July 14th to 15th, 2019. A sum of 70 participants attended the training including wetland management staff, community rangers, and township and district officials in charge of wetland issues.

As agreed in their cooperative agreement, WWF and the National Forestry and Grassland Administration planned to conduct four training courses on Ramsar Sites management at the Yangtze Wetland Conservation Network Training Center, located in Chongming-Dongtan, in 2019. On August 7th, 2019, the first training course kicked off with the attendance of 31 wetland stewards from wetland management authorities or Ramsar sites across more than 20 provinces or municipalities, including Inner Mongolia, Heilongjiang, and Jilin. This training offered a wonderful chance for the participants to learn relevant requirements and best practices for the stewarding of Ramsar sites by acquainting themselves with rich information, including the Ramsar Convention and Management of Ramsar sites, an introduction to the information sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), an overview of the requirements for RIS updates, and China’s best practices for the management of Ramsar sites.

WWT partnered with two institutes of the University of Nanjing—the Changshu Ecology Institute and the Freshwater and Coastal Wetlands Research Center—in delivering an international training session on wetland restoration and management at the E’rguna National Wetland Park in Inner Mongolia on August 19th-25th, 2019. That was the third session of the training program, which covered multiple topics including theories, techniques and practices for wetland habitat restoration, case study-based wetland park planning and conservation, wetland interpretation and nature education, wetland ecosystems and visitor use management planning, and wetland monitoring.

On August 30th, 2019, the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region had a training course on wetland conservation and management in Xing'an prefecture. This training activity offered an opportunity for nearly 120 wetland practitioners to learn and exchange knowledge on the identification and monitoring of wetland birds and plant species.

In September 2019, CoNature, a Chinese environmental education organization, launched a series of training sessions with the purpose of developing a team of professional educators of environmental science. The organization hoped that such training could help nature educators have a better understanding of the wetland curriculum adopted by the city of Zhuhai, master required teaching skills and improve their application skills. It also believed that such an effort would contribute to integrating nature experience programs into the curriculum for both primary and secondary school students across the city, a spur to the city's wetland education programs.

On October 11th, 2019, GEI, the Dandong Yalujiang National Nature Reserve Management Authority and the village of Dadingzi in the Township of Changshan of the city of Donggang kicked off their cooperation in community-based conservation of Dandong coastal wetland and waterbirds with the very first training session held at the city of Dandong. Wetland reserve staff and villagers present at the training learned how to protect, monitor, and band wetland birds and how to reduce coastal pollution through putting a stop to dumping rubbish and untreated wastewater straight into the ocean.

The Jiangsu Provincial Department of Forestry also held a wetland conservation training session for its wetland management team on October 9th-11th, 2019. This training was to improve the team's competency for wetland stewardship.

The city of Nanjing convened a training session on wetland conservation and management at the Liuhechi-Shanhu provincial wetland park on October 25th, 2019. At the training, over 50 wetland practitioners from local forestry departments, wetland micro-reserves, and wetland parks listened to lectures presented by invited experts. The information covered at the training including the designation and management of provincial and national wetland parks in compliance with applicable legislation, the status of wetland conservation and wetland management performance appraisal, and the requirements for the designation and management of wetland micro-reserves.

On November 3rd, 2019, Anhui province had a training course aiming to strengthen capacities for wetland protection and restoration for wetland managers and on-site scientists serving at local forestry departments, wetland parks and reserves. Among the training contents, know-hows on wetland conservation, monitoring and restoration were covered. This training helped the participants get acquainted with skills and knowledge for better and more standardized wetland conservation practices under the guidance of the *Technical Specifications for Wetland Vegetation Restoration* released by the province.

Gansu province conducted a seminar dubbed "Wetland Conservation and Restoration & National Park Establishment and Management" in the city of Zhangye on November 16th-17th, 2019. The two-day event saw participation by more than 120 wetland personnel from local counties and cities. They were exposed to case-based learning of techniques for wetland protection and restoration and of the status, progress and challenges of wetland park management.

On November 26th, 2019, the city of Baoding in Hebei province hosted a training session, sponsored by China Meteorological Administration, on providing meteorological information service for wetland conservation and management. A team of over 30 meteorological workers attended the training and learned how to observe meteorological conditions in wetland ecosystems to offer better technical assistance for wetland management.

On December 3rd, 2019, two subordinate units of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration—the Division of Wetland Management and China National Bamboo Research Center—jointly organized the “2019 Uganda Wetland Conservation and Management & Technical Training” at the capital city of Kampala. This training, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China, was a milestone for China to disseminate knowledge abroad about wetland conservation. It benefited 45 wetland managers from Uganda.

On March 25th, 2020, the county of Jinhu in Jiangsu province held a training course for wetland rangers. A squad of 30 participants, either wetland rangers or wetland managers responsible for the stewardship of urban wetlands, wetland nature reserves, and wetland parks, made attendance at the training and learned new skills or information regarding wetland rangers responsibilities; staff management and performance evaluation; physical and biological features of certain wildlife; wetland monitoring techniques, and etc.

The East Sea Bureau of the Ministry of Natural Resources hosted a webinar on coastal marsh wetland survey techniques in the city of Shanghai on May 24th-26th, 2020. This online training covered multiple topics such as fundamental theories of coastal marsh ecology, case study-based practices for coastal marshes survey and evaluation, and technical guidances for coastal marsh survey and evaluation. At the training, there were over 100 experts from different branch offices or affiliated institutes of the Ministry including, among others, the Department of Marine Early Warning and Monitoring, the North Sea Bureau, the East Sea Bureau, the South Sea Bureau, the Marine Disaster Mitigation Center, the First Institute of Oceanography, the National Center of Ocean Standards and Metrology, and the National Marine Information Center.

On June 16th, 2020, the Jiuyi River National Wetland Park Management Authority organized a training session for its rangers with the intention of enhancing and standardizing the practice of wetland patrol. During the training, the rangers were taught multiple skills on how to properly fill out patrol logs, on how to install and use GPS-cameras in the field.

A ten-day training program entitled “Wild Water Education” closed with a last session in the city of Nanjing on June 14th, 2020. This cross-country tour training, consisted of four sessions held in the cities of Chongqing, Xi’an, Taiyuan, and Nanjing, gave over 76 primary and secondary school teachers from 11 provinces a comprehensive introduction to basic concepts of wetland and biodiversity and to the significance of wetlands, their status and challenges. It was believed that the training was useful in helping the educators have a better understanding of wetland ecosystems, so as to engage more people in wetland conservation through conducting environmental education in and out of classrooms.

On June 16th, 2020, the Shengjinhua National Nature Reserve Management Authority gave its staff a training session on administrative penalties applied to illegal activities occurred in wetland reserves. This training aimed to fully regulate law enforcement practices through improving law enforcers’ capacities, helping them perform their responsibilities in full compliance with law.

Last but not least, international wetland conservation programmes funded by earmarked grants also supported a lot of training activities. Take the GEF-financed Xinjiang wetland conservation project as an example. During the five-year project time, it trained a combined 2,478 participants through a series of 74 training sessions held at the city of Urumqi, the city of Altai, the Liangheyuan National Nature Reserve and its surrounding communities. Those training activities greatly contributed to improving the participants’ competencies for wetland conservation and for the wise use of wetland.

19.4 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii	<div data-bbox="1102 179 1375 241">A</div> <div data-bbox="1102 241 1375 353">A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable</div>
<p>19.4 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):</p> <p>All previous national reports on the progress of Ramsar Convention prior to the one for COP14 are consistent baseline references for China to track progress toward set goals in the implementation of the international agreement. Referring to previous national reports can enable Ramsar Administrative Authority in China to align key priorities and challenges for the Convention's implementation with China's socio-economic development goals. This has proven to be an effective way to push forward the implementation of the international agreement.</p>	

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

Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15]

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.

[Reference to Aichi Target 2]

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021		
Additional information:		

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

{Reference to Aichi Targets 7 and 8}, [Sustainable Development Goal 6, Indicator 6.3.1]

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021	
Additional information:	

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 4. *Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.*
[Reference to Aichi Target 9]

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer

National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021	
Additional information:	

Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 6,11,13,14, 15]

Target 5. The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective, planning and integrated management {2.1.}.

[Reference to Aichi Target 6,11, 12]

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021	
Additional information:	

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021		
Additional information:		

Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

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.
[Reference to Aichi Targets 12, 14, 18, 19].

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 9. *The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone {1.3.}. [Reference to Aichi Targets 4, 6, 7].*

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 10. *The traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels. [Reference to Aichi Target 18].*

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer

National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021	
Additional information:	

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021		
Additional information:		

Target 12. *Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation. {1.8.}*
[Reference to Aichi Targets 14 and 15].

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target :		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021		
Additional information:		

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.*
[Reference to Aichi Targets 6 and 7].

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021		

Additional information:

Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17]

Target 15. Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention. {3.2.}

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021		
Additional information:		

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 18].

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021	
Additional information:	

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021	
Additional information:	

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

Planning of National Targets

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

Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021	
Additional information:	

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 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 2021	
Additional information:	

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

Guidance for filling in this section

1. Contracting Parties can opt to provide additional information specific to any or all of their designated Ramsar Sites.
2. The only indicator questions included in this section are those from Section 3 of the COP14 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 COP14 NRF.
4. Please include information on only one site in each row. In the appropriate columns please add the name and official site number (from the [Ramsar Sites Information Service](#)).
5. For each 'indicator question', please select one answer from the legend.
6. A final column of this Annex is provided as a 'free text' box for the inclusion of any additional information concerning the Ramsar Site.

Name of Contracting Party:

List of indicator questions:

- 5.6** Has the Ramsar Site been assessed regarding the effectiveness of its management (i.e. sites with either a formal management plan) or management via other relevant means where they exist e.g through existing actions for appropriate wetland management ?
- 5.7** Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
- 11.1** Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
- 11.3** Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
- 11.4** Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19?
- 16.3a** Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
- 16.6a** Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

Ramsar Site number	Ramsar Site name	5.6 ③	5.7 ①	11.1 ③	11.3 ④	11.4 ④	16.3a ①	16.6a ①	Any additional comments/information about the site
<i>Ex:1603</i>	<i>Lake White</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>B - No</i>	<i>D - Planned</i>	

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