Ramsar National Report to 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 completed National Report **must be accompanied by a letter** in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP14 National Report. It can be attached to this question using the "Manage documents" function (blue symbol below)
› Hereby we confirm that on this form following is the Estonia's official submission of its COP14 National Report.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Ramsar_reportCOP14_confirmation_EE.pdf - Letter from Estonian Head of Administrative Authority

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority
› Estonian Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation Department

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title
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Designated National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)

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

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

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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)
› Large-scale mire restoration activities planned and implemented in Ramsar sites (Soomaa, Muraka, Alam-Pedja, Läänemaa-Suursoo/Leidissoo, Luitemaa and Agusalu) and non-Ramsar wetlands (in years 2017-2019) by State Forest Management Centre as well by Estonian Fund for Nature (LIFE project Mires Estonia LIFE14 NAT/EE/000126, LIFE PEAT RESTORE 2016-2021). Estonian most important salmon river – Pärnu river is restored by Cohesion Fund project. The dam of Sindi was removed in 2018 for restoration of migratory routes. The rapids are constructed and project is completed at 2020. The whole project has been considered as a success story in European Union. In Estonia 85 dams in total were removed in the last 6 years, to allow more access for the fish.

2)
› Implementation of the Action Plan for Protected Mires (2016-2023) incl. restoration priorities and Action Plan for Semi-natural Habitats (2014-2020), incl restoration and management actions and budget also for semi-natural wetlands (coastal and floodplain meadows). Elaboration of new management plan for semi-natural grasslands for 2021-2027.

3)
› 2017 and 2019 two conferences on Wetland Day were organised on new level. In close cooperation with Estonian Fund For Nature, Environmental Board and Estonian Wetland Society the conferences were recorded and are available online, About 200 people attended the both events.

4)
› Increasing wetland CEPA activities: In 2017, during Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the image of raised bog was the main official visual of the country. During reporting period seminars, conferences, educational programmes, celebration of Wetland Day, working camps in wetlands etc (carried out by the Nature Education department of the Environmental Board, but also by Estonian Fund for Nature, Estonian Wetland Society and some other NGO-s). LIFE+ projects have produced films, trainings, outdoor learning projects and programs, thorough handbooks and educational materials about wetland restoration. The boardwalks in Estonian mires are very popular and well visited nature attractions, many of them have been restored and renewed during last reporting period, equipped with educational materials.

5)
› Soomaa NP, Matsalu NP and Lahemaa NP (Lahemaa is not Ramsar but includes wetlands) have got EUROPARC designation/nomination as sustainable tourism destinations.

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

1)
› Land ownership makes restoration planning and implementing sometimes difficult. All areas, included in Ramsar sites, protected areas and Natura 2000 areas what are on state land have been planned or in planning process for restoration but private lands have been mainly out of restoration planning and implementing. The understanding of society (landowners) about wetland restoration is not sufficient.

2)
› EU CAP and policies about peaty soils are not always relevant in the terms of carbon sequestration.

3)
› Financing of activities is mainly project-based.

4)
› Cross-sectoral cooperation in wetland related issues is not always sufficient enough

5)
› Understanding and valuation of wetland ecosystem services and achieving wise use of all wetlands of the country is an ongoing challenge.

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

1)
› Implementation of the strategic documents and management plans: ongoing conservation, maintenance and restoration of wetlands.

2)
› In 2020 launces the new LIFE IP project, resulting with elaborated action plan for wet forest habitats and restoring the wet forests.

3)
› Improvement of the cross-sectorial cooperation. Identifying the bottlenecks of the communication and understanding with the public and landowners to get positive response and participation in wetland restoration (especially mire restoration).

4)
› Updating the Action Plan for Protected Mires.

5)
› To secure funding of management and restoration activities in Ramsar sites.

D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning priorities for implementation assistance and requirements for such assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?
› We are satisfied with current activities and information flow.

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)
› We are satisfied with current assistance.

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)?
› This kind of cooperation is most effective through personal contacts of relevant specialists. So multilateral meetings would be helpful.

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?
› It is taken into account in relevant documents.

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.
› In Estonian society there is no difference between genders in participating in any kind of programs or research. There is a good balance, the share is equal or even more women are involved than men, as women are active participants in social, research and educational issues in Estonia and in our culture.

I. Do you (AA) have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?
› No comments.

J. Please list the names of the organisations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report
› Estonian Wetland Society, Estonian Ornithological Society, Environmental Board, Environmental Agency web page, State Forest Management Centre webpage, Estonian Fund For Nature webpage

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

1.1 Additional information
› All development plans and strategies must follow sustainable approaches to environemnt incl wetlands.

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=Yes

2.1 Additional Information
› Estonia is implementing the EU Water Framework Directive. River basin management plans (for 3 districts) are established (2009-2015; 2015-2021; the preparation for next period is started). The methodology for integrating wetlands in the Water Framework Directive has been worked out (2011).

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

☑ A=Yes

2.2 Additional Information

› Wetlands with restoration plans, scientific research for management planning and monitoring.

2.3 What, if any, initiatives been taken to improve the sustainability of water use (or allocation of water resources) in the context of ecosystem requirements across major river basins (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12)? (Action 3.4.6.)

☑ A=Yes

2.3 Additional Information
› Estonia is implementing the EU Water Framework Directive. River basin management plans (for 3 districts) are established (2009-2015; 2015-2021; the preparation for next period is started).

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.)

☑ C=Partially

2.4 Additional Information
› Estonia is implementing the EU Water Framework Directive. River basin management plans (for 3 districts) are established (2009-2015; 2015-2021; the preparation for next period is started).

2.5 Percentage of households linked to sewage system?
SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.
› 83.46

2.5 Additional Information
› All municipalities are linked (sometimes partially) to sewage systems. In some remote municpalities villages or households have autonomic systems for households or do not have any because of sparce and scattered population patterns.

2.6 What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country?
SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.
☑ G=More than (percentage)

› 95

2.6 Additional Information
› The population and housholds are sparse in some localities and therefore rural areas have local sewege systems. All urban areas are covered by sewage system.

2.7 What is the percentage of users of septic tank/pit latrine if relevant to your country?
SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.
☑ G=More than (percentage)

› 5

2.7 Additional Information
› The population and housholds are sparse and therefore rural areas have local sewege systems, sometimes also separate septic tanks.

2.8 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology?
SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.
☑ A=Yes

2.8 Additional Information
› Creating of constructed wetlands is suggested but not implemented yet in large scale. Guidelines and instructions are issued. Lot of research on this topic is carried out in Tartu University.

2.9 Number of wastewater treatment plants (or volume treated exist at national level)?
SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☑ E=Exact number (plants)

› 570

2.9 Additional Information
› The 570 plants are those, which have licences and are processing more than 3m2 water per day.

2.10 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants? If relevant to your country SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☑ A=Good

2.10 Additional Information
› The plants are being renovated by local and EU funds

2.11 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is?
SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.
☑ X=Unknown

2.11 Additional Information
› The systems are maintained by local authorities.

2.12 Number of wastewater reuse systems (or volume re-used) and purpose?
SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.
› 0

2.12 Additional Information
› It is not used and not relevant in Estonia.

2.13 What is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system if relevant to your country ?
SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.
☑ Y=Not Relevant

2.13 Additional Information

Please indicate if the wastewater reuse system is for free or taxed or add any additonal information.
› Not relevant.

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

2.14 Additional information: If Yes, please provide an example
› The artificial wetlands have been created in smaller municipalities.

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]

3.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {1.10.1} KRA 1.10.i
☑ A=Yes

3.1 Additional Information
› The private is sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance in its activities and investments concerning wetlands

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

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

3.2 Additional information
› The private sector has undertaken activities or actions for the conservation, wise use and management.

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

3.3 Additional information
› Different schemes of environmental subsidies based on EU funds are in place in Estonia which aim in supporting actions for biodiversity. Subsidies for management of grasslands cover the various costs of management and restoration. Environmental Investment Center, an subordinate institution of Ministry of Environment, provides one-off supports, based on revenues of environmental fees, taxes and also using EU Cohesion Fund, for restoration projects of habitats, mainly grasslands, thus having remarkable positive impact on biodiversity. Local municipalities, NGOs, farmers can apply for that. These subsidy schemes have significant economic contribution to local communities.

3.4 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i
☑ A=Yes

3.4 Additional Information
› Subsidies for reconstruction of existing forest drainage ditches or creation of new drainage systems may have local hazardous impacts to wet habitats, e.g. when the drainage is implemented in vicinity of a protected area or in the limited management zone of a protected area.
As the hydroenergy production has a very small potential in Estonia, it is still considered as a part of renewable energy that is supported by renewable energy state subsidy. Constructions of new hydroenergy stations are prohibited by law in protected areas, but subsidies for renewable energy can be considered as a problem when excisting dams and/or hydroenergy stations impacts to biodiversity and construction of fish passage necessity are assessed in environmental impact report.

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 comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i
☑ C=Partially

4.1 Additional information
› Information is permanently gathered and maintained in Estonian Nature Information System/environmental database (EELIS).

4.2 Have national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management been established or reviewed for wetlands? {1.9.2} KRA 1.9.iii
☑ A=Yes

4.2 Additional information
› A list of alien species likely to disrupt natural balance has been established in 2004 by a regulation of the Minister of the Environment and updated in 2007.
Comprehensive legislation exists banning release of all alien species to all habitats.
For more agressive species like Campylopus introflexus and all alien crayfish there are a monitoring programs.

Alien hogweed (Heracleum) species are managed in all substrates, also in wetlands.

4.3. Has your country successfully controlled through management actions invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems?
☑ A=Yes

4.3 Additional Information

If 'Yes', please provide examples, including the species name and the successful management action
› Projects are carried out to eradicate alien species, e.g. alien hogweed species are being eradicated since 2005 both on private and state land. The work of volunteers and experiments of using the labour of community service offenders to eradicate Himalayan balsam have also been carried out, etc.

4.4 Are there invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems that have not been successfully controlled through management actions?
☑ X=Unknown

4.4 Additional Information

If 'Yes', please provide examples, including the species name and the challenges to management
› Unknown.

4.5 Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?
☑ A=Yes

4.5 Additional Information
› Heracleum sosnowskyi, H. persicum, H. mantegazzianum, governmental program for eradication on all known colonies both private and public land, since 2007.
Signal crayfish eradication since discovery (2008). Control programs have been effective.

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]

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

5.1 Additional information
› The National Programme on the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention consists a list of suitable areas for the the further designation.

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

5.2 Additional information
› All sites are selected with the help of these tools.

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

› 17

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=Exact number (sites)

› 17

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=Not Relevant

5.3 – 5.5 Additional information
› All 17 Ramsar sites have an up-to date management plan designed and approved and being implemented. In Estonia areas designated as Ramsar sites are nationally protected under the terms of the Nature Conservation Act as protected areas or limited-conservation areas or combination of these. According to the Act for the purpose of organising the protection management plans should be drawn up. Drafting and implementing of these plans is the responsibility of the Environmental Board.

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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=Yes

5.6 Additional information
› During management planning process status of habitats and species, influencing factors and drivers are analysed. Activities and conservation measures listed in previous management plan are assessed. All management plans in force include the section of management effectivness assessment (indicators and criteria). Assessment is carried out on the basis of inventories and monitoring results.

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

› 4

5.7 Additional information

If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites
› Matsalu 104
Alam-Pedja 905
Soomaa 912
Vilsandi 913
The formation of the committee is recommended also for Luitemaa 1962 (not implemented yet)

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]

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

7.1 Additional information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Some sites’, please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established
› A national environmental monitoring system (an environmental monitoring programme with 12 sub-programmes) has been promoted. Environmental Agency working under the Ministry of Environment (Administrative Authority) is responsible for implementation of the system. The data of the national environmental monitoring are reliable and of high quality. Monitoring is conducted by specialists with high qualification; long data rows ensure an overview of the national status of the environment in many areas, for example, species diversity, water, soil, etc. Monitoring needs for Ramsar sites are fixed in management plans. Ramsar sites are baseline areas for the national environmental monitoring programme.
The Estonian Land Board is regularly producing high-resolution aerophotos and LiDAR data, which is a very promising basis for application of the remote sensing technique for mapping and monitoring of wetlands.

7.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i
☑ O=No Negative Change

7.2 Additional information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Some cases’, please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made
› This has not been a case for Estonia.

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
☑ Z=Not Applicable

7.3 Additional information

If ‘Yes’, please indicate the actions taken
› Not applicable

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]

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

8.1 Additional information
› There is no special wetland inventory covering all wetland types carried out in Estonia. Information has been gathered via different inventories since 1950s. Lakes were first inventoried in 1960s and 1970s. Semi-natural wetland habitats - floodplain and coastal grasslands were investigated in 1993-1996 and is an ongoing process. During the project Estonian Wetlands Conservation and Management Strategy in 1997, an inventory of 1,376 wetlands was carried out using unified criteria and a database connected with geographical information system was created. Additional information about wetland habitats (specific inventories, for example the distribution of wetland habitat types, the state and influence of old drainage systems, insect fauna etc.) has been gathered during compilation of management plans for Natura 2000 areas.
During the project Estonian Mires Inventory Completion for Maintaining Biodiversity (2008-2011) the inventory was completed. Additional 13,901 areas were studied of which 8,676 were determined as mires and 603 sites including mires as marginal habitats. As a result there is now a total overview about all areas in Estonia covered by mire vegetation (https://kaart.soo.ee/map)

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

8.2 Additional information
› No special wetland inventory update project. Information concerning occurrence and status of wetland habitats is being regularly updated on the basis of research and monitoring projects and added to the environmental database.

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

8.3 Additional information
› Information is maintained in Estonian Nature Information System/environmental database (EELIS) operated by the Estonian Environmental Agency and being a working tool for all environmental and planning specialists. For public, data are available on web pages: register.keskkonnainfo.ee and seire.keskkonnainfo.ee

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

8.4 Additional information
› Estonian Nature Information System/environmental database (EELIS) operated by the Estonian Environmental Agency is a working tool for all environmental and planning specialists. For public, data are available on web pages register.keskkonnainfo.ee and seire.keskkonnainfo.ee
If data cannot be found on web page (for example sensitive data of strongly protected species etc), it is possible to send request for information to the Environmental Agency. Digital overviews are available on web page of Environmental Agency (www.keskkonnaagentuur.ee)

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

Please describe on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).
* ‘Condition’ corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention
Please select only one per square.

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

8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b)

› Ramsar sites: Maintenance and restoration activities have been implemented and are going on according management plans.
Wetlands generally: Estonia is still rich in wetlands, both in terms of their total area and the great variety of habitats. There is a legislative and administrative framework in place that supports the sustainable use and conservation of wetlands. The main threats affecting wetlands are addressed in several strategies. A significant proportion of preserved valuable wetlands are legally protected and have been included in the integral and united system of protected areas. 27% of marine area (territorial sea) is under protection. The network has been implemented in the county-wide spatial plans and comprehensive plans according to the Planning Act. Restoration and maintenance activities have been implemented and are currentlly in work

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.

☑ G=More than (km2)

› 13800

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
A -- Permanent shallow marine waters in most cases less than six metres deep at low tide; includes sea bays and straits.	7000
B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds; includes kelp beds, sea-grass beds, tropical marine meadows.	0
C -- Coral reefs.	0
D -- Rocky marine shores; includes rocky offshore islands, sea cliffs.	2
E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores; includes sand bars, spits and sandy islets; includes dune systems and humid dune slacks.	17
F -- Estuarine waters; permanent water of estuaries and estuarine systems of deltas.	57
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats.	350
Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs.	0

H -- Intertidal marshes; includes salt marshes, salt meadows, saltings, raised salt marshes; includes tidal brackish and freshwater marshes.	174
I -- Intertidal forested wetlands; includes mangrove swamps, nipah swamps and tidal freshwater swamp forests.	0
J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons; brackish to saline lagoons with at least one relatively narrow connection to the sea.	18
K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons; includes freshwater delta lagoons.	30
Zk(a) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, marine/coastal.	0

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km2)

› 7650

8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
L -- Permanent inland deltas.	0
M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls.	124
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks.	0
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes large oxbow lakes.	2100
P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes floodplain lakes.	0
Q -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes.	0
R -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats.	0
Sp -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools.	0
Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools.	0

Tp -- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools; ponds (below 8 ha), marshes and swamps on inorganic soils; with emergent vegetation water-logged for at least most of the growing season.	8
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils; includes sloughs, potholes, seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes.	59
U -- Non-forested peatlands; includes shrub or open bogs, swamps, fens.	2200
Va -- Alpine wetlands; includes alpine meadows, temporary waters from snowmelt.	0
Vt -- Tundra wetlands; includes tundra pools, temporary waters from snowmelt.	0
W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands; shrub swamps, shrub-dominated freshwater marshes, shrub carr, alder thicket on inorganic soils.	23
Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands; includes freshwater swamp forests, seasonally flooded forests, wooded swamps on inorganic soils.	45
Xp -- Forested peatlands; peatswamp forests.	800
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.	9
Zg -- Geothermal wetlands.	0
Zk(b) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, inland.	1

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

› 5360

8.6 Human-made wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
1 -- Aquaculture (e.g., fish/shrimp) ponds.	0
2 -- Ponds; includes farm ponds, stock ponds, small tanks; (generally below 8 ha).	57

3 -- Irrigated land; includes irrigation channels and rice fields.	0
4 -- Seasonally flooded agricultural land (including intensively managed or grazed wet meadow or pasture).	0
5 -- Salt exploitation sites; salt pans, salines, etc.	0
6 -- Water storage areas; reservoirs/barrages/dams /impoundments (generally over 8 ha).	5
7 -- Excavations; gravel/brick/clay pits; borrow pits, mining pools.	30
8 -- Wastewater treatment areas; sewage farms, settling ponds, oxidation basins, etc.	0
9 -- Canals and drainage channels, ditches.	700
Zk(c) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, human-made.	0

8.6 Human-made wetlands total (km2)
› 800

8.6 Additional information

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.
› Marine and coastal wetlands in total include 7000 ha shallow coastal sea, up to 7 m deep (we do not have exact data up to 6 m deep water).
Human-made wetlands include ponds and ditches 760 km2 and 100 km2 abandoned peat mining areas.
(The numbers describing the extent of wetlands differ from previous report because of better available data).

8.7 Please indicate your needs (in terms of technical, financial or governance challenges)to develop, update or complete a National Wetland Inventory
› The lack of finances and human resources.

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]

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

If ‘Yes’, please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box
☑ A=Yes

9.1 Additional information
› Conservation and restoration of wetland ecosystems is one of the priorities of the Nature Conservation Development Plan and related action plans for different habitats (e.g. National Action Plan for Protected Mires and Action Plan for Semi-natural Habitats).
The Nature Conservation Development Plan (https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ee/ee-nbsap-v2-en.pdf) is a strategic base document for the development of sectors related to the conservation and use of nature. This document is also incorporating broader perspectives of wetland conservation and restoration. The plan sets three strategic goals of the development plan:
- People are familiar with, appreciate and conserve nature and know how to use their knowledge in their daily

lives.
- The favourable conservation status of species and habitats and diversity of landscapes is ensured and habitats are functioning as a coherent ecological network.
- Long-term sustainability of natural resources is ensured and the principles of the ecosystem approach are followed in the use of natural resources.
Additionally different strategies and development and action plans are directly or indirectly concerned with conservation and wise use of wetlands.
The Estonian National Strategy on Sustainable Development “Sustainable Estonia 21” (2005). The Environmental Strategy until 2030 (2007).
The Estonian Rural Development Plan 2014-2020 includes several support measures important for nature conservation, such as the Natura 2000 subsidy for maintenance of semi-natural communities and the Natura private forest subsidy.
The Forestry Development Plan until 2030 is under preparation.
The Fisheries Development Plan 2014–2020 addresses the sustainable use of fish stocks.
Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Science and Education have jointly signed an Action plan for Environmental education and awareness 2019-2022. It supports the implementation of different measures to raise environmental awareness in the school and pre-school child care institutions. The measures of nature education in the development plan are also in line with the Estonian Research and Development and Innovation Strategy 2014–2020 “Knowledge-based Estonia”.
The Competitiveness Strategy “Estonia 2020”, which describes the main policies and measures for raising the competitiveness of Estonia, envisages also the development of a methodology for valuation of ecosystem services.
Also Estonia is implementing the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan up to 2021.
The Transport Development Plan 2014-2020 has a direct and indirect impact on the environment and includes several conservation-related goals and measures for the transport sector.
The sectoral development plan of the Ministry of Culture “Sacred Natural Sites in Estonia 2015-2020” is aimed at studying, conserving and restoring valuable landscapes and promoting the related nature education.
The goals and measures in the Renewable Energy Action Plan until 2020 (2010) are tightly connected with the conservation and use of ecosystems and mitigation of climate change and its adverse impact.
Estonian Action Plan for Semi-Natural Grasslands (covering also floodplain and coastal meadows) adopted in 2013, up-dated in 2020.
Estonian Action Plan for Protected Mires for 2016-2023
River basin management plans for 2015-2021

9.2 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.5}{1.3.6}
☑ B=No

9.2 Additional information
› Legal norms, regulating protection of wetlands, have been remarkably amended in connection with the membership in European Union (2004).

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
☑ A=Yes

9.3 Additional information
› Estonia is implementing the EU Water Framework Directive. River basin management plans (for 3 districts) are established (2009-2015; 2015-2021; the preparation for next period is started). The methodology for integrating wetlands in the Water Framework Directive has been worked out (2011).

9.4 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.7.2}{1.7.3}
☑ A=Yes

9.4 Additional information
› All managemnet plans and river basin management plans include CEPA part. The preparation process of plans is open for public. People can follow the drafting process of plans (and other legal documents) in web using the special governmental information system of draft documents (eelnoud.valitsus.ee). They can comment the documents and participate in public consultations.

9.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.3} {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii
☑ A=Yes

9.5 Additional information

› In 2017 Estonian Parliament adopted The baselines for Estonian Climate Policy 2050 and Estonian Government adopted Estonian Climate Change Adaption Plan until 2030 together with Action Plan. The role of wetlands in mitigating and adapting climate change is taken into account in those documents.

9.6 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.4} {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v

☑ A=Yes

9.6 Additional information

› Water Act sets down main water protection rules for agriculture. Like manure and chemical fertilizers management and use, requirements for animal husbandry etc. In addition, action programmes, like river basin management plans and Nitrates Action Program (2011-2015; 2016-2020) are launched according to Water Act.
Nitrates Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) in Estonia was determined taking into account soil and ground conditions, ground and surface water vulnerability as well as intensity of agriculture. Total area of the NVZ is 3250 km2 which is 7,5 % of the total land area 43 200 km2.Rural Development Plan 2014-2020 which allows to implement the measures to preserve and enhance biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems, has been drawn up (support for managing, semi-natural habitats, organic farming, environmentally friendly management and others). The use of environmentally friendly technologies is supported.

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i
Please select only one per square.

a) agriculture-wetland interactions	☐ C=Planned ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) climate change	☐ C=Planned ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
c) valuation of ecoystem services	☐ C=Planned ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

9.7 Additional information

› Relevant research activities are carried out mainly by the researches of the excellence centre FIBIR (Frontiers in Biodiversity Research) and of Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences of Tartu University, Institute of Ecology of Tallinn University and of Estonian University of Life Sciences.
A research and development programme is being created by the Ministry of the Environment, being in line with the innovation strategy of Estonian research and development activities "Knowledge-Based Estonia 2014-2020". This strategy establishes the general directions and aims of research, development and innovation in the state, and points out areas to be primarily developed, which are related to wise specialisation. In organising research and development, the Ministry of the Environment cooperates with Estonian Ministry of Education and Research, Estonian Research Council and research institutions. Cooperation memorandums are concluded with Estonian universities, aiming at agreeing on cooperation.

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

☑ B=No

9.8 Additional information

If ‘Yes’, please indicate How many request have been submitted
› Not Applicable

9.9 Has your country made efforts to conserve small wetlands in line with Resolution XIII. 21?

☑ A=Yes

9.9 Additional information: (If ‘Yes’, please indicate what actions have been implemented)

If ‘Yes’, please indicate what actions have been implemented
› Many small wetlands (for example small ponds suitable for amphibians and dragonflies, spring fens etc) are protected at bigger conservation areas.

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]

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)
☑ A=Yes

10.1 Additional information

If yes please indicate the case studies or projects documenting information and experiences concerning culture and wetlands
› Cultural aspects form a part of management plans.

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
(Resolution VII. 8) (Action 6.1.5)
Please select only one per square.

a) stakeholders, including local communities and indigenous people are represented on National Ramsar Committees or similar bodies	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=In Preparation ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
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	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=In Preparation ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes

10.2 Additional information

If the answer is "yes" please indicate the use or aplication of the guidelines
› Not applicable

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=Yes

10.3 Additional information
› This forms a part of management planning.

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

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
☑ A=Yes

11.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, how many wetlands and their names
› The project "Development of methods for assessment and mapping of ecosystem services of marine and inland waters" was conducted in 2014–2015. In the framework of ongoing marine spatial planning process, the selected marine ecosystem services will be modelled, assessed and mapped. The results will be integrated with an economic impact model of marine areas being developed under the management of the Ministry of Finance that is responsible for the marine spatial planning process. Thus, ecosystem services will

be considered when planning the alternative scenarios for use of marine area.
In the course of the project ELME (“Establishment of tools for the assessment and prognosis of the biodiversity status integrated with social-economy and climate change as well as for better accessibility to relevant data”) led by the Environment Agency, a national system for mapping and evaluating ecosystem services (benefits of nature), as well as for implementing the concept in spatial and strategic planning, and for evaluating and budgeting environmental influences is developed by the year 2020 (2023 at the latest).

11.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i

☑ Y=Not Relevant

11.2 Additional information

› Not relevant

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

☑ A=Yes

11.3 Additional information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Partially’, please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names
› Socio-economis values form a part of management plans.
Ramsar sites:
Agusalu 1999
Alam-Pedja 905
Peipsiveere 906
Endla 907
Haapsalu-Noarootsi 2022
Hiiu laiumere 908
Laidevahe 1271
Leidissoo 1998
Lihula 1997
Luitemaa 1962
Matsalu 104
Muraka 909
Nigula 910
Puhtu-Laelatu-Nehatu 911
Sookuninga 1748
Soomaa 912
Vilsandi 913

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

☑ A=Yes

11.4 Additional information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Partially’, please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names
› Cultural values form a part of management plans.
Ramsar sites:
Agusalu 1999
Alam-Pedja 905
Peipsiveere 906
Endla 907
Haapsalu-Noarootsi 2022
Hiiu laiumere 908
Laidevahe 1271
Leidissoo 1998
Lihula 1997
Luitemaa 1962
Matsalu 104
Muraka 909
Nigula 910
Puhtu-Laelatu-Nehatu 911
Sookuninga 1748
Soomaa 912

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
☑ A=Yes

12.1 Additional information
› For mire habitats the priority sites for restoration are fixed in the Action Plan for Protected Mires (2016). For semi-natural wetland habitats (floodplain and coastal meadows) in the Action Plan for Semi-natural Habitats (2014-2020; updated in 2020).

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

12.2 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if available the extent of wetlands restored
› The extent of degraded habitats has decreased in Estonia since Estonian Nature Conservation Development Plan was adopted at 2012. Significant progress has been made with restoration of semi-natural grasslands (floodplain and coastal meadows) and mire habitats. The Plan stipulated the aim to restore at least 10 000 ha of valuable mire habitats to 2020. For today necessary works have been done for restoration of water regime on 11 000 ha, and works are going on on more than 5 000 ha of degraded mires.
Several LIFE projects (LIFE Mires Estonia (LIFE14 NAT/EE/000126), LIFE PEAT RESTORE "Reduction of CO2 emissions by restoring degraded peatlands in Northern European Lowland" (LIFE15 CCM/DE/000138), LIFE SPRINGDAY conservation and restoration of petrifying spring habitats (LIFE12 NAT/EE/000860) and other restoration projects have been carried out or ongoing to restore water regime of different mire habitats – fens, transitional mires, spring-fens, bog margins etc. For example in total 8320 ha of different mire habitats are restored by Cohesion Fund projects.
LIFE Happyriver (LIFE12 NAT/EE/000871, 2012-2017), restored the integrity of freshwater habitats in Alam-Pedja Ramsar site. This project restored the alluvial meadows and natural riverbed in the lower course of the degraded river which used to be an excellent representative of a natural river, with attractive meanders and surrounding meadows. Estonian most important salmon river – Pärnu river is restored by Cohesion Fund project. The dam of Sindi was removed in 2018 for restoration of migratory routes. The rapids are constructed and project is completed at 2020. The whole project has been considered as a success story in European Union. The potential smolt production of restored Pärnu river has estimated 45 000 – 58 000 smolts per year. In Estonia 85 dams in total were removed in the last 6 years, to allow more access for the fish.

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?
Please select only one per square.

a) Knowledge of global resources	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) Education and public awareness on peatlands	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
c) Policy and legislative instruments	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

d) Wise use of peatlands	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
e) Research networks, regional centres of expertise, and institutional capacity	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
f) International cooperation	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
g) Implementation and support	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

12.3 Additional Information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Partially’, please indicate, the progress in implementation
› Additionally to restoration activities regulatory mechanisms are established which result in avoiding the further degradation of habitats. Regulation of the Minister of Environment was adopted in 2016 which stipulates that a permit for peat extraction may be applied only for a peat area agreed in a list of areas already degraded and suitable for extraction. It means that habitat loss of not degraded mires is avoided.
All restored mire-areas (bogs, fens and transitional mires and bog margins) are very important for carbon sequestration, because after rewetting the areas will be again accumulate peat and store carbon. Different restoration activities were used, as restoring the near natural water regime of sites, closing the ditches with dams or filling them completely; removing the tree cover unnatural for the habitat or manipulations with tree and bush layer to get the more natural composition of the habitat.
For abandoned peat mining areas sometimes was also necessary to remove the upper layer of mineralised peat and to saw Sphagnum fragments.

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
☑ A=Yes

13.1 Additional information
› Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act (adopted in 2005) regulates strategic impact assessment (SEA), which is carried out to strategic planning documents (development plans and spatial plans).The Act provides the rules of procedure of SEA and the requirements of the content of reports.

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
☑ A=Yes

13.2 Additional information
› Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act (adopted in 2005) regulates environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the development projects, which may have significant environmental impact. The Act provides the cases when environmental impact shall be assessed, the rules of procedure of EIA and the requirements of the content of reports.

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=Yes

15.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative

› NorBalWet

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

☑ B=No

15.2 Additional information

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

› Not applicable

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

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

Please select only one per square.

a) At the national level	☐ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes ☐ C=In Progress
b) Sub-national level	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes ☐ C=In Progress
c) Catchment/basin level	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes ☐ C=In Progress
d) Local/site level	☐ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes ☐ C=In Progress

16.1 Additional information

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

› There is no special Action Plan for wetland CEPA. Wetland CEPA tasks and activities are included into Environmental Strategy, Nature Conservation Development Plan and work plans of the Environmental Board. The Board has created about 100 different programs (many of them introducing wetlands) which are supportive to various school subjects. Wetland CEPA issues are included in management plans of protected areas and river basin district plans and are part of various wetland projects.
Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Science and Education have jointly signed an Action plan for Environmental education and awareness 2019-2022. It supports the implementation of different measures to

raise environmental awareness in the school and pre-school child care institutions. The measures of nature education in the development plan are also in line with the Estonian Research and Development and Innovation Strategy 2014–2020 “Knowledge-based Estonia”.

16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii
a) at Ramsar Sites
☑ E=Exact Number (centres)

› 7

16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii
b) at other wetlands
☑ G=More than (centres)

› 10

16.2 Additional information

If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks
› Estonia is covered with the network of nature centres operated by the Environmental Board ja State Forest Management Centre. Six nature centres with a local nature exhibition and introduction material to the areas key features have been established at Ramsar sites: Alam-Pedja, Endla, Matsalu, Soomaa, Vilsandi and Peipsiveere. However, nearly all the other nature centres of the Environmental Board (alltogether 8 centres) and of the State Forest Management Centre (alltogether 18 nature centres) provide information on wetland habitats and species characteristic for certain region. Additionally there are also some nature schools operated by non-profit groups (for example Palupõhja Nature School at Alam-Pedja).

16.3 Does the Contracting Party {4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii
Please select only one per square.

a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?	☐ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes

16.3 Additional information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Partially’, please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved
› Decisions are made mainly via regional and local planning which are public processes. When drawing up management plans for protected areas the Environmental Board has to cooperate closelt with local authorities and stakeholders.

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

16.4 Additional information

If ‘Yes’, indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP13; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has
› The Estonian Ramsar Committee is an advisory body of the Ministry of Environment on Ramsar issues and meets unregularly upon need.

16.5 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v
☑ B=No

16.5 Additional information

If ‘Yes’, indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP13; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has

› The Estonian Ramsar Committee is an advisory body of the Ministry of Environment on Ramsar issues

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

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

16.6 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please describe what mechanisms are in place
› No special communication mechanisms are fixed. Information is communicated via websites, meetings, round-tables, seminars and personal contacts

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}
☑ A=Yes

16.7 Additional information
› In 2018 and 2020 large well attended conferences were held, organised and supported by WWF Estonia, Estonian Wetland Society, Estonian Ministry of Environment and Environmental Board. The conferences had both about 200 attendees and were visible also online, The presentations are available online, on WWF Estonia website.

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=Yes

16.8 Additional information

If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this
› Many events (seminars, workshops, trips etc) have been organized by Environmental Board, Estonian Wetland Society and Estonian Fund for Nature every year. In 2016, 2018 and 2020 special wetland conference has been organized.

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]

17.1a Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2018, 2019 and 2020? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i
☑ A=Yes

17.1b If 'No' in 17.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment
› Not applicable.

17.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i
☑ B=No

17.2 Additional information

If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities

› Not applicable

17.3 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only (‘donor countries’)]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i
☑ Z=Not Applicable

17.3 Additional information

If ‘Yes’, please indicate the countries supported since COP12
› Not applicable

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

17.4 Additional information
› Not applicable

17.5 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only (‘recipient countries’)]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}
☑ Z=Not Applicable

17.5 Additional information

If ‘Yes’, please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP12
› Not applicable

17.6 Has any financial support been provided by your country to the implementation of the Strategic Plan?
☑ B=No

17.6 Additional information

If “Yes” please state the amounts, and for which activities
› Not applicable.

Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

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

18.1 Additional information
› Not always, only as required.

18.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.2} {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv
☑ C=Partially

18.2 Additional information
› Personal communication.

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

The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, WWF and Wildfowl & Wetland Trust (WWT).
☑ B=No

18.3 Additional information

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

› Not applicable

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=Yes

18.4 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved
› Study tours, seminars, personal communications etc in boreal region.

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

18.5 Additional information
› Information cab be found on web pages of Ministry of Environment, Environmental Board, and Estonian Environment Agency, also on web page of the Estonian Wetland Society (www.soo.ee) and the Estonian Fund for Nature (www.elfond.ee)

18.6 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i
☑ A=Yes

18.6 Additional information
› Lake Peipsi shared with Russia. North Livonian wetland complex shared with Latvia.

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
☑ A=Yes

18.7 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place
› Estonia and Latvia have designated the North-Livonian Transboundary Ramsar Site.
The Estonian-Russian Transboundary Water Commission promotes cooperation in the field of the wise use of the Lake Peipsi resources.

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

18.8 Additional information
› Estonian Ornithological Society, HELCOM (marine mammals etc).

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
☑ B=No

19.1 Additional information
› Not applicable

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

19.2 Additional information

If you answer yes to the above please provide information on which mechanisms and materials
› Promoting nature education at all levels of education is one of the main measures of implementation of the Nature Conservation Development Plan.
Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Sience and Education have jointly signed an Action plan for Environmental education and awareness 2019-2022. It supports the implementation of different measures to raise environmental awareness in the school and pre-school child care institutions. The measures of nature

education in the development plan are also in line with the Estonian Research and Development and Innovation Strategy 2014–2020 “Knowledge-based Estonia”.

19.3 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP13? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv
a) at Ramsar Sites
☑ Y=Not Relevant

19.3 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP13? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv
b) at other wetlands
☑ Y=Not Relevant

19.3 Additional information

including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training
› There is no such position as wetland site manager in Estonia. Management planning and implementation is responsibility of the Environmental Board, working in co-operation with all stakeholders.

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

19.4 Additional information

If ‘Yes’, please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring
› We have improved our monitoring programs and have considered the report in updating management plans. Report is the good source of information for communicating for interested bodies and for compiling of different strategical documents