

# 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)

> Finland

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Letter\\_NR\\_Finland.pdf](#)

### Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority

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Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

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

Name and title

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

Name and title

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## Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

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

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

1)

> The Helmi habitats programme launched in 2020 aims to strengthen biodiversity by conservation and management of peatlands, bird wetlands, semi-natural grasslands, forest habitats, small freshwater bodies, and shoreline habitats of inland water bodies and the Baltic (<https://ym.fi/en/helmi-habitats-programme>). The programme covers many wetland types and has aims for remarkable conservation and management efforts during 2020-24, and sets goals for further actions for 2030. It is a very remarkable input to nature conservation with an initial budget of 42 M€ for 2020.

2)

> The SOTKA wetlands programme 2020-2022 aims at halting the loss of biodiversity and restoring waterbird populations by actions outside the conservation area network. Many ducks of Western Europe hatch in the boreal wetlands of Finland, where several waterbird populations are currently declining due to degradation of habitats and invasion of non-native species such as Raccoon Dog and American Mink. Most quarry ducks such as Wigeon, Pintail and Teal, raise their broods outside the protected areas and SPA network, in the wetlands of agricultural and forestry areas. Total budget more than 3 M€. SOTKA complements the Helmi habitats programme.

3)

> Three EU LIFE projects are implementing wetland conservation. CoastNet LIFE (2018-2025) focuses on coastal habitats (<https://www.metsa.fi/en/project/coastnet-life/>), FRESHABIT LIFE IP (2016-2022) on freshwater habitats (<https://www.metsa.fi/en/project/freshabit-eng/>), and Hydrology LIFE (2017-2023) on peatlands (<https://www.metsa.fi/en/project/hydrology-life/>). The summarized budget of these projects is more than 37 M€.

4)

> Several nationally funded research and development projects aim at improving the knowledge of wetland status and conservation, and increase the amount of open data from wetlands.

- The research programme for deficiently known species and habitats (PUTTE 2) by Ministry of the Environment funds projects on coastal wetlands, rich fens, and the freshwater pearl mussel during 2020-22.
- The Finnish Environment Institute SYKE has studied the impact of climate change on the conservation area network and how the network should be adapted in a project 2017-19. SYKE has also launched a portal for marine habitats and species, MarineFinland.fi, that gathers data and knowledge from nine Finnish organizations and institutes.
- The Finnish Biodiversity Information Facility (FinBIF; Laji.fi) is an open access data repository for researchers, government and the public.
- METSO 2014-2025 is a voluntary forest protection promoted by the State through the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland, aiming to halt the ongoing decline in the biodiversity of forest habitats and species, and establish stable favourable trends in Southern Finland's forest ecosystems. The programme funds projects also for forested wetlands, such as alluvial forests and small wetlands in forests.
- Åbo Akademi University is a partner in EUBiodivERsA NordSalt project (2021-2025) that studies Baltic coastal marshes in terms of community structures, extent and long-term changes of habitats, role in climate regulation and vulnerability under future climate scenarios and sustainable management options. Other partners of the consortium are University of Southern Denmark (lead), Aarhus University, Stockholm University (Sweden), SINTEF (Norway), and University of Hamburg (Germany).
- Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) has started a multidisciplinary study at Hiitolanjoki (2020-2022) in order to evaluate GHG emissions, migratory fish spawning habitat creation and biodiversity changes, focus on Lake Ladoga Salmon, and social acceptability of changes due to microscale hydropower dam removal.

5)

> New guidance and operational models for cooperation are constantly improving the wise use of wetlands in areas outside protected areas.

- New guidance has been published concerning small wetlands in forestry and agricultural areas.
- New decrees have been set to improve the possibilities for state funding for habitat restoration in private areas to be implemented in e.g. the Helmi habitats programme.
- A new way of mire restoration has been developed and is being implemented in e.g. the Helmi habitats programme. Drainage waters are re-directed from commercial forestry areas to protected mires to improve their hydrology, which has been impacted by the surrounding drainage.
- Forestry on peatland soils is under discussion, and continuous cover forestry is studied as an alternative to

clear-cutting. Continuous cover forestry could improve both water protection and biodiversity in peatland forests.

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

- 1)
  - › Most wetland habitats and many species are still considered to be threatened in the national 2018 assessment for habitats and 2019 assessment for species.
- 2)
  - › The concept and especially the implementation of wise use in wetland habitats is still not clearly understood. The use of forests on peatlands and peatlands in general are big issues under discussion.
- 3)
  - › The concept of landscape-scale or catchment-scale planning and implementation of wetland conservation has been widely promoted and accepted. However, the practical implementation is challenging in areas with multiple landowners and land use categories. This challenge can usually be tackled in projects with external funding, such as EU LIFE projects, but we also need planning and implementation on a longer time scale.
- 4)
  - › Lack of systematically gathered data on wetland status and threats, especially small water bodies.
- 5)
  - › During 2020-21 the covid-19 pandemic has severely hindered all CEPA activities where the public would be directly involved, such as field events and education events. The pandemic has also hindered international cooperation, which is limited to virtual meetings at the moment.

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

- 1)
  - › Reversing the trend of threatened habitat types and species in wetlands by protecting, management, restoration and sustainable utilization. This is aimed to be done by implementing the CBD and EU strategies for biodiversity. The Helmi habitats programme is one of the main means for this, aiming at additional protection of up to 75 000 ha and restoration of more than 50 000 ha of wetlands by 2030.
- 2)
  - › Improving the joint consideration of climate, water and biodiversity protection in all wetland-related conservation and restoration initiatives. All these aspects will be considered when prioritizing for projects. Regarding the climate issues, both mitigation and adaptation is to be considered.
- 3)
  - › Land-use planning with implications on wetlands must be carried out comprehensively and the needs of wetland habitats, including their ecosystem services, are taken adequately into account in any planning that pertains to wetlands and in the execution of any measures that affect them. Any planning pertaining to wetlands is carried out on the landscape and catchment area level. For example, peat mining for fuel is to be ended during the 2030's and the best ways for after-use of the mining areas need to be considered regarding climate, water, and biodiversity protection. The landscape level also includes the concept of other effective area-based means (OECM) for improving biodiversity on wetlands among other habitats.
- 4)
  - › The significance of wetlands is widely understood and wetland-related communications support the understanding of decision-makers of the benefits provided by wetlands, and these benefits are known and appreciated and they direct the actions of decision-makers and other actors. Communication of wetland issues needs to involve the whole society
- 5)
  - › Finland actively participates in international cooperation to promote the protection and sustainable use of wetlands.

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

› Finland would like to recommend to clarify and strengthen the role of Ramsar Convention regionally, especially related EU Member States.

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 consider the role of IOPs very crucial and would recommend to further strengthen the cooperation with IOPs.

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

> The national governmental decisions, biodiversity strategies and action plans are the key tool to implement all MEA related decisions and strategies. The logic and setting SMART objectives would be good guideline to include also national implementing. Also building joint monitoring programmes would help parties with very limited financial resources.

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?

> EU environment regulation is enhancing with building better cooperation between administrative silos, like European Green Deal -initiative. There is still important need to joint water-biodiversity-climate approaches at the sub-regional planning and especially with water basin level. Nationally one of the key sectors to be included in, is land-use planning.

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.

> Finland is one of the world's leading countries in fostering gender equality. Finland propels a worldwide commitment to gender equality. It wants to define the notion in a new way and once again put gender equality in the spotlight. That is the reason Finland has supported to prepare the Guidance Document on integrating Gender issues into the implementation of the Ramsar Convention. More information about the gender equality processes in Finland: <https://stm.fi/en/gender-equality>

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

> At the global level, Finland would like to recommend strengthening the work with other MEAs, especially with CBD concerning the water related programmes and also strengthening the role of Ramsar Convention concerning the SDGs

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

> Ministry of the Environment  
Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland  
Natural Resources Institute (LUKE)  
Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)  
ELY Centre of Uusimaa  
ELY Centre of South Ostrobothnia  
Birdlife Finland  
Tapio Group  
The Finnish Wildlife Agency  
The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK)  
Geological Survey of Finland

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

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

### 1.1 Additional information

> b: Not relevant

c, d: National legislation such as legislation on water, EU Directives, e.g. Marine Strategy Framework Directive

f: Mires are included in national forest programmes

g: Included in the rural development programmes

h: Wetlands are included under many headings

j: E.g. the Finland's Tourism Strategy to 2020 sets the public sector's contribution to the tourism.

i,j,k, l, m, n, o, p: Biodiversity and environmental issues are included in the relevant national legislation

## 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.

C=Partially

### 2.1 Additional Information

> The Act on Water Resources Management (1299/2004) with recent amendments addresses widely the environmental goals for river basin management, including coastal, freshwater and groundwater wetlands, and conservation areas. One of the latest amendments (19.12.2015/1263) specifically addresses those groundwater aquifers that support groundwater-dependent terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The aquifers have been intensively inventorized and those identified supporting groundwater-dependent habitats or species are given a special classification. The ecological needs of the associated wetlands should be taken into account in water abstraction planning and implementation.  
In addition, a new approach on re-directing drainage waters from silviculture areas around protected mires is being implemented in projects and the Helmi habitats programme for 250-430 sites. It improves the hydrology of protected peatland sites which are surrounded by drainage channels by returning the natural surface flow from surrounding areas as much as possible.

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

> Environmental flow in the context of migratory fish populations has been addressed widely in a recent research project: <http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/160242>. Implementation of the environmental flow has been started.

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

> Nature and water conservation issues are considered in all the large-scale plans, e.g. River Basin Management, Flood Risk Management as well as regulation of large water bodies and environmental permit according to the Environmental Act.

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=Yes

## 2.4 Additional Information

> Projects presented in section 2 achievements.

2.5 Percentage of households linked to sewage system?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

> 86

## 2.5 Additional Information

> At the end of year 2017 86% of inhabitants of Finland lived in urban areas with centralized sewerage systems. All households are obligated to treat their waste waters according to the Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste-water treatment. The amendment to the Environmental Protection Act concerning the treatment of wastewater from areas with dispersed settlement entered into force on 3 April 2017, and the progress is going well.

2.6 What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

E=Exact number (percentage)

> 86

## 2.6 Additional Information

> At the end of year 2017 86% of inhabitants of Finland lived in urban areas with centralized sewerage systems.

2.7 What is the percentage of users of septic tank/pit latrine if relevant to your country?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

E=Exact number (percentage)



> 14

## 2.7 Additional Information

> At the end of year 2017 86% of inhabitants of Finland lived in urban areas with centralized sewerage systems.

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

C=Partially

## 2.8 Additional Information

> Settling ponds are often used as part of the wastewater treatment technology.

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

E=Exact number (plants)

> 350

## 2.9 Additional Information

> The number of plants treating the waste water of 100 inhabitants or more is approximately 350.

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 remove >95% of phosphorus and >60% of nitrogen.

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

C=Functioning

## 2.11 Additional Information

> Nearly all households outside of decentralized sewerage systems treat their waste water according to national and community rules.

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

> 0

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 additional information.

> Waste waters processed in plants are not reused in Finland. In industry cooling waters etc. are circulated and reused but we have not considered this aspect here.

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

B=No

## 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 Finnish legislation gives guidance. There is also a voluntary initiative Business & Biodiversity. The national biodiversity strategy based on CBD and EU strategies will enhance this connection more. Biodiversity programmes are being created for industry. Landowners are encouraged not to drain peatland sites with low forest production.

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

Please select only one per square.

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

### 3.2 Additional information

> Management of shoreline meadows, sustainable nature-based tourism, organisations for voluntary work, the activities of the Finnish Forest Centre that serves private forest owners (e.g. wetland issues are taken into account in forest plans and river basin plans), foundations receive funding from the private sector, hunting organisations and societies work in game management issues, including e.g. water bird assessments. The private sector is represented in the LIFE projects on wetlands. Compensation for habitat deterioration by development projects is increasing and this is to be considered while updating the Nature Conservation Act in 2020-21.

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

> Agri-environmental support system for farmers and registered associations, act on financing of sustainable forestry: environmental management projects and financial support, and The Forest Biodiversity Programme METSO for voluntary protection (<http://www.metsopolku.fi/en/index.php>), the METSO -programme is to be continued until 2025. In the Helmi habitats programme municipalities are involved as owners of restoration projects to be funded.

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

> The low energy tax on peat will be corrected and almost doubled, and a separate floor price will be applied to ensure that even at low market prices for emission allowances, the use of peat in Finland would fall in line with the targets.

## 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

A=Yes

#### 4.1 Additional information

> Implementation of Finland's National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species, Finnish Advisory Board for Invasive Alien Species, studies on small alien predators, Management of invasive Raccoon Dogs (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) in the North-European Countries (MIRDINEC) LIFE project, and After Life work from 2010 and on-going. Web pages on invasive alien species, e.g. by the Finnish Environment Institute, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finnish Wildlife Agency, Finnish Museum of Natural History, and Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, the Baltic Sea Portal (by Finnish Environment Institute)

<http://vieraslajit.fi/fi/content/welcome-invasive-alien-species-portal>

IAS management and eradication concept development projects in inland and archipelago areas 2020-2022, Finnish Wildlife Agency

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

A=Yes

#### 4.2 Additional information

> The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry established a New management plan for the national alien species in autumn 2020. The plan unites with the EU Alien Species Management Plan. Both national and EU Alien Species List have been updated.

<https://www.riistainfo.fi/haitalliset-vieraslaivit/>

<http://vieraslajit.fi/fi/content/welcome-invasive-alien-species-portal>

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

> The After-Life work of MIRDINEC LIFE+ (2010-2013) has been international success story on the management of dispersing IAS and example of significant population reduction in management area which is preventing the dispersal to another country. The work is funded by Finland, Sweden and Norway and operating in close co-operation with the Swedish Raccoon Dog Management project.

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

A=Yes

#### 4.4 Additional Information

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

> Removal of American Mink and Raccoon Dog on bird wetlands has only been successful when there is intense, broad and consistent hunting effort. The SOTKA invasive predator project develops operating models for the management of invasive predators. In Finnish:

<https://www.riistanvuoksijulkaisu.fi/artikkelit/hoitosuunnitelmat/uusia-malleja-vieraspetojen-pyyntiin.html>

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

C=Partially

#### 4.5 Additional Information

> Some archipelagic and coastal protection areas have systematic controlling and monitoring programs and reporting. In wetlands outside protected areas, hunting effort is not systematically monitored and data are not aggregated.

## 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

> New areas for further designation of Ramsar Sites have been identified. An assessment of the protected area network is being prepared according to the EU biodiversity strategy. In Finland the Ramsar sites are mainly designated within existing conservation areas, such as National Parks and Natura 2000 sites.

### 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

> Further designations are in the process of compilation in RSIS.

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

E=Exact number (sites)

> 37

### 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)

> 37

### 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

E=Exact number (sites)

> 12

### 5.3 - 5.5 Additional information

> All designated Ramsar sites in Finland are also Natura 2000 sites. All Natura 2000 sites are being assessed for their status and threats and this assessment is updated when necessary. The assessment includes also an evaluation if a more detailed management plan is needed. We consider these as formal management plans that apply for all Natura 2000 sites, and more detailed management plans with stakeholder involvement are usually done for national parks or other sites with more pressures.

Currently (Jan 2021) the situation in Ramsar sites included in (sometimes several) Natura 2000 sites is as follows:

- 37 Ramsar sites are fully covered by valid Natura 2000 site assessments. Of these needs for more detailed planning have been recognized for 21 sites, many of which are being implemented in ongoing LIFE projects.
- The assessment is being prepared for 8 Ramsar sites
- The assessment or any other management plan is outdated for 4 Ramsar sites.

### 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

C=Partially

### 5.6 Additional information

> The Natura 2000 site assessments include an evaluation of the effectiveness of their management. Management plans are based on basic inventories of species and habitat types and include an analysis of threats and can also include hydrological monitoring and inventorying information.

### 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

> Cross-sectoral management committees are formed for the preparation of detailed management plans for sites, when stakeholder involvement is necessary. Some of these committees remain constant. Currently Vanhankaupunginlahti Bay-Laaajalahti Bay (site number 9) areas has a cross-sectoral management committee as does Quark Archipelago (6), Lemmenjoki National Park (1521), and Oulanka (1525).

## 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

> Citizens have internet-based mechanisms for contacting authorities if sites are threatened. Permits for any development actions are under monitoring. Montreux Record has not yet been used in Finland.

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

7.3 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

## 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

> We do not have a specific, all-inclusive national wetland inventory in Finland, but it can be estimated that wetlands cover about 135 523 km<sup>2</sup> of the country's land area. The data is collected from various sources and the % of change cannot be reliably estimated. The extent of peatlands has been estimated since the 1920's in 5-10 year intervals by the National Forest Inventory, the other estimates are based mostly on topographic map data by the National Land Survey. In general, wetland area loss is not a significant issue in Finland where wetlands are very abundant, but degradation of wetland quality is. For example, 53% of all peatlands are drained according to the data available. This figure does not include peatlands that have been converted for agriculture, and the total extent of small wetlands is unknown. Also the extent of human-made wetlands is unknown.

Marine wetlands:

VELMU depth model. 2016. URL:

<http://metatieto.ymparisto.fi:8080/geoportal/catalog/search/resource/details.page?uuid=%7B16329288-9ABA-4563-906F-9A121F1FF18A%7D>

Natura 2000 Habitaatit (MH). 2018. GIS analysis on coastal lagoons. Metsähallitus, Parks and Wildlife Finland. Unpublished.

Peatlands:

LUKE Statistics Database: Mineral soils and peatlands on forestry land. 2019. URL:

[http://statdb.luke.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/LUKE/LUKE\\_04%20Metsa\\_06%20Metsavarat/1.02\\_Kankaat\\_ja\\_suot\\_me tsalousmaalla.px/?rxid=dc711a9e-de6d-454b-82c2-74ff79a3a5e0](http://statdb.luke.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/LUKE/LUKE_04%20Metsa_06%20Metsavarat/1.02_Kankaat_ja_suot_me tsalousmaalla.px/?rxid=dc711a9e-de6d-454b-82c2-74ff79a3a5e0)

Freshwater habitats:

Shoreline10. 2016. Topologically correct spatial dataset containing data on Finnish water bodies. National Land Survey of Finland.

Topographic Database. 2019. URL: <https://www.maanmittauslaitos.fi/en/maps-and-spatial-data/expert-users/product-descriptions/topographic-database>

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

A=Yes

### 8.2 Additional information

> The sources are updated periodically.

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

C=Partially

8.3 Additional information

> Some data are public domain and updated regularly, others are based on specific needs or projects.

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

C=Partially

8.4 Additional information

> Some data are public domain and updated regularly, others are based on specific needs or projects.

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

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b)

> Assessment of the conservation status of habitats (<https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/162487>) and species ([https://www.ymparisto.fi/en-US/Nature/Species/Threatened\\_species](https://www.ymparisto.fi/en-US/Nature/Species/Threatened_species)) have been published, indicating no improvement. The time scale of the assessments is 5-10 years.

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=Exact Number (km2)

> 135523

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.	
B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds; includes kelp beds, sea-grass beds, tropical marine meadows.	
C -- Coral reefs.	
D -- Rocky marine shores; includes rocky offshore islands, sea cliffs.	
E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores; includes sand bars, spits and sandy islets; includes dune systems and humid dune slacks.	

F -- Estuarine waters; permanent water of estuaries and estuarine systems of deltas.	
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats.	
Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs.	
H -- Intertidal marshes; includes salt marshes, salt meadows, saltings, raised salt marshes; includes tidal brackish and freshwater marshes.	
I -- Intertidal forested wetlands; includes mangrove swamps, nipah swamps and tidal freshwater swamp forests.	
J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons; brackish to saline lagoons with at least one relatively narrow connection to the sea.	
K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons; includes freshwater delta lagoons.	
Zk(a) - Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, marine/coastal.	

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km2)  
> 9288

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)  
> 126235

### 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.

> Change is not relevant or measurable in the time scale of a triennium. Wetlands are not classified according to the Ramsar categories. Sub-division of different wetland types according to our sources is presented in the attached document.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Target8 National Wetlands Inventory COP14 FIN.docx](#) - Explanation on the data used for national wetland inventory

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

> Small wetlands (streams, springs, ephemeral wetlands) and artificial wetlands do not have consistent data so far.

## 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

> There are several strategies and action plans that are relevant to wetlands such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2020 (to be updated), the supplementation program for mire conservation, the river basin management plans and their action plans (under revision for 2021-27), the European Union Habitat, Birds and Water Framework Directives, Finland's marine strategy, strategy for restoration of small water bodies, programme for prioritisation of restoration sites in relation to EU Biodiversity Strategy and the CBD Strategic Plan and their targets on restoration of ecosystems.

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

A=Yes

### 9.2 Additional information

> New decrees have been set to improve the possibilities for state funding for habitat restoration in private areas to be implemented in e.g. the Helmi habitats programme. The Nature Conservation act is under updating process, expected to be finished by the end of 2021.

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

> The Finnish Government has approved seven regional river basin management plans. These plans and the related action plans include information on the condition of water bodies, the factors affecting them and measures which will restore inland and coastal waters in these regions to good condition by 2021. Flood risks are assessed and managed. There are attempts to better integrate objectives of nature conservation and water usage. Water accounts are being constructed.

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

> Members of the National Ramsar Committee participate in cooperation groups and organs that work for water protection. Cooperation networks are established through implementation of Water Framework Directive, and through projects such as Freshabit LIFE IP and Hydrology LIFE.

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 National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022, wetlands are included, also plan for environmental administration (<http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-11-4629-9>). Finland's national legislation concerning climate change policy has evolved gradually, reflecting the obligations imposed by international conventions and EU legislation. The Climate Change Act (609/2015), which entered into force in June 2015, is the first national statute defining general long-term guidelines for Finland's climate change policy and laying down provisions on a planning system for climate change policy. In the river basin management plans, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures are also taken into account, including management of flood risks. In land use plans, the possibility of rising of sea level is taken into account. The Integrated Biodiversity Conservation and Carbon Sequestration in the Changing Environment (IBC-Carbon) project will provide decision-supporting tools on how to optimally manage these valuable forests in a changing climate and how to secure their connectivity.

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

> Artificial wetlands are being planned and implemented in different parts of the country to reduce loads from the agriculture on one hand, and to improve the diversity and livelihood of the agricultural landscape on the other hand.

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i



Please select only one per square.

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

### 9.7 Additional information

> a: Research and monitoring actions are carried out continuously by e.g. Finnish Environment Institute and the Natural Resources Institute Finland especially on water quality issues

b: Research is carried out especially in relation to peatlands.

c: Research is carried out in relation to e.g. multiple use of shores, health issues, tourism and recreational use of nature, carbon sequestration etc.

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

B=No

### 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

> Special attention to inventory, restoration and conservation of small wetlands is paid in the Helmi habitats programme initiated 2020.

## 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 values are included in most of the management plans. Principles of Protected Area Management in Finland (<https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/assets/pdf/lp/Bsarja/b203.pdf>) covers also the practices of conservation and management of cultural values and heritage. Cultural values of all existing Ramsar sites have been recently assessed for the RSIS update process.

### 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	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Preparation <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Preparation <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
--	---

## 10.2 Additional information

If the answer is "yes" please indicate the use or application of the guidelines

> Participation of locals and stakeholders is common practice in management planning on state land and is obligated e.g. in Principles of Protected Area Management in Finland and in Sami Act. Akwé: Kon -guidelines are followed in all management planning in area of Sami population.

The Sami people are also involved in planning and implementing of the national biodiversity strategy, and locally involved in management of the Ramsar sites in the Sami area.

## 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

> The project "Resilience and Management of Arctic Wetlands" is an initiative led by Sweden under CAFF and including Finland. The Arctic Wetlands project uses a social-ecological systems perspective that approaches humans in nature as interacting elements in a single system and involving indigenous communities in the process.

## 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

C1=Partially

## 11.1 Additional information

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

> The Biodiversity.fi portal includes more than 110 indicators reflecting the state and development of various components of biological diversity as well as factors driving changes in Finland's nature. Biodiversity.fi is financed by the Ministry of Environment and it has been developed in close cooperation by Finnish environmental research organisations and non-governmental organisations. The portal also includes links to Finnish ecosystem service indicators which are currently under development.

Finland is also involved in the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services - MAES.

### 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

C=Partially

## 11.2 Additional information

> 2014 Amendment on the Act on Water Resources Management included protection of groundwater resources.

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

A=Yes

## 11.3 Additional information

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

> In the management planning process socio-economic values are taken into consideration.

### 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

> In the management planning process cultural values have been taken into consideration in Ramsar -sites.

### 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

> The updated PRIORITISED ACTION FRAMEWORK (PAF) FOR NATURA 2000 in FINLAND for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 - 2027 includes prioritized needs for wetland habitat restoration.

Restoration of peatlands and bird wetlands is based on prioritized need in the Helmi habitats programme.

Biodiversity Strategy and the CBD Strategic Plan and their targets on restoration of ecosystems.

Supplementation programme for mire conservation.

Study on restoration of peatlands and protected areas.

Assessment of wetlands that are important for birds.

Act on financing of sustainable forestry: support for management actions.

Priorization tools such as Zonation have been used to identify the most diverse sites for cost-efficient restoration. This also includes several types of wetlands. Results include prioritization of areas for practical restoration within Finland's Natura 2000-network.

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

> Ongoing EU LIFE-projects, eg. Freshabit LIFE IP 2015-2022, Hydrology - LIFE 2017-2023, in which peatlands and freshwaters will be restored over 6000 ha.

The Helmi habitats programme has started 2020, aiming at restoration of about 50 000 ha of wetlands.

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Education and public awareness on peatlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) Policy and legislative instruments	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

d) Wise use of peatlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
e) Research networks, regional centres of expertise, and institutional capacity	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
f) International cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
g) Implementation and support	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

### 12.3 Additional Information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, the progress in implementation

- > a) The global resources are acknowledged when assessing the importance of peatlands in Finland
- b) The subject is part of the primary school curriculum. The subject could be improved in professional education for e.g. forestry.
- c) The State has made a classification for sustainable use on peatlands in 2014.
- d) Sustainable means for forestry in peatland soils are being constantly discussed.
- e, f) Finland is active in international cooperation with especially the Baltic-Nordic states.
- g) Peatland issues are being discussed to improve wise use, and peatlands and climate are being considered in updating and designating new Ramsar sites.

### 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

> Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) are done, for example, in relation to river basin management planning and marine planning and updating of national legislation.

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 Assessments are made for all development projects as decreed in the legislation. The authority in charge of granting the permit handles the matter and decides on the permit. If a project or plan is likely to have significant adverse effects on the ecological value of a site included in the Natura 2000 network (all Ramsar sites in Finland), an assessment of its impact needs to be conducted. The same applies to any project or plan outside the site which is liable to have a significantly harmful impact on the site (as decreed in the Nature Conservation Act of Finland).

### 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  
> Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative: Denmark, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, Russian Federation (north-western regions).

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

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

> Wetland CEPA activities have been planned as a part of the Finland's Ramsar Wetlands Action Plan. There is also a communication plan made annually for Liminganlahti wetland centre. Metsähallitus Parks and Wildlife Finland and Regional Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment are responsible of the site level CEPA-work.

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)

> 13

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  
 X=Unknown

## 16.2 Additional information

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

> In Finland there is only one Wetland Centre (Liminka Bay Visitor Centre) at Liminganlahti Bay Area -Ramsar site. Liminka Bay is part of The Wetland Link International network and Migratory Birds for People programme. 11 visitor or nature centres are handling customer service and nature education of the nearby Ramsar area. Those are run (at least in co-operation) by Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland and they include: Kellokas Visitor Centre (Teuravuoma-Kivijarvenuoma Mires), Kilpisjärvi Visitor Centre (Lätäseno-Hietajoki Mires), Koli Visitor Centre (Patvinsuo National Park), Naava Visitor Centre (River Luiro Mires), Oulanka Visitor Centre (Oulanka National Park and Riisitunturi National Park), Science Centre Pilke (Martimoaapa-Lumiaapa-Penikat Mires), Saimaa Visitor Centre (Siikalahti Bay Area), Siida visitor centre (Lemmenjoki National Park and Sammuttjänkä-Vaijoenjänkä Mires), Syöte Visitor Centre (Olvasuo Mires), Fell Lapland Visitor Centre (Sotkavuoma Mires). Two Ramsar sites has visitor or education centres run by local municipality: World Heritage Gateway (Quark Archipelago) and Villa Elfvik (Vanhankaupunginlahti Laajalahti).

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

Please select only one per square.

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

## 16.3 Additional information

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

> Stakeholders are invited to participate the planning committees of management plans and public hearings are held at various stages of the planning process.

## 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

> a) Ministry of the Environment, Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for North Ostrobothnia, Finnish Environment Institute, Council of Oulu Region, The Finnish Forest Centre, The Finnish Wildlife Agency, The Finnish Peatland Society, Forestry Development Centre Tapio Deputy, The Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations, The Central Union of Agricultural, Producers and Forest Owners (MTK), BirdLife Finland, FEE Finland, WWF Finland, The Finnish Nature League, VAPO, The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Central Finland, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for South Ostrobothnia, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Uusimaa and The Bioenergy Association of Finland

b) 1 meeting

c) The Committee:

- 1) Coordinates and forms a mutual understanding of the national implementation of the Ramsar Convention, strategies and decisions of COP,
- 2) Promotes and coordinates the implementation of Finland's Ramsar Wetlands Action Plan 2016-2020,
- 3) Promotes information exchange and networking in regional, national and international level and
- 4) Implements the national CEPA-action plan

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

Y=Not Relevant

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

Please select only one per square.

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

### 16.6 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please describe what mechanisms are in place

> Parks and Wildlife Finland is responsible for the most Ramsar sites in Finland. NFP, STRP and CEPA national focal points are from Parks and Wildlife Finland. Ministry of the Environment has established working group with other MEA national focal points and has regular contacts other ministries, departments and agencies.

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

> Liminka Bay Visitor Center carries out wetland events during Nordic Wetland Day in September. World Wetland Day materials have been published in social media of National Ramsar Wetland Committee parties. Seminars have been arranged together with the Finnish Peatland Society every two years with special focus on Ramsar around the international Wetlands Day.

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

> A new private Saimaarium Science Center has started operating in the vicinity of Lake Saimaa. Finnish Water Restoration and Management Network promotes co-operation between administration, researchers, local actors, entrepreneurs, operators and financiers (by campaigns, webinars, newsletters, social media etc). The Finnish Water Restoration and Management Network (FWRMN) is an open platform that provides information and experiences on improving the status of waters and arranges public seminars twice a year. The Finnish Freshwater Foundation is a non profit organisation, working to improve the state of fresh waters - lakes, rivers and small waters - in Finland and to safeguard the cultural heritage of those waters by means of communication, cooperation, and project funding. Communication plays also a major role in larger projects, such as FRESHABIT LIFE IP and Hydrology LIFE.

## 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

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

A=Yes

## 17.2 Additional information

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

> Finland has supported the Guidance Document On Mainstreaming Gender Equality into Work under the Ramsar with 12 000 CHF and travel support for ODA countries to take part the Pre-COP and COP meetings average 35 000 CHF/COP year.

17.3 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i

Z=Not Applicable

17.4 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii

Z=Not Applicable

17.5 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}

Z=Not Applicable

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

B=No

## Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

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

B=No

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

A=Yes

## 18.2 Additional information

> Working group since beginning of 2017

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

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

A=Yes

## 18.3 Additional information

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

> BirdLife Finland conducts bird monitoring in the coordination of Finnish Zoological Museum. Bird censuses on internationally important bird areas (IBA) are part of BirdLife's global bird monitoring program. WWF Finland arranges voluntary restoration camps also on wetlands.

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

> We have active cooperation with especially the Baltic-Nordic states, and Russia within the Green Belt of Fennoscandia cooperation.

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 about Finnish Ramsar sites can be found from internet. Presentations of wetland seminars have been published and related LIFE-projects have been reporting their results and findings in the media.

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

A=Yes

#### 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

> There are transboundary water commissions between Finland and both Russia, Sweden and Norway.

Transboundary Water Commissions handle all kinds of measures which may have a transboundary impact and they also supervise and monitor the transboundary watercourses. Green Belt of Fennoscandia is cross-border cooperation aiming for biodiversity cooperation, including wetlands.(<http://www.ym.fi/greenbelt>)

#### 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

> Finland is a Contracting Party to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) since 2000.

### 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

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

C=Partially

#### 19.2 Additional information

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

> The new primary school curriculum is based on the study path of sustainable development. The curriculum includes many wetland and land use topics.

#### 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

X=Unknown

#### 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

X=Unknown

#### 19.3 Additional information

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

> A lot of wetland manager training is done especially in projects, but data on training opportunities is not gathered systematically.

#### 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

