

# 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)

> THE NETHERLANDS (CARIBBEAN PART OF THE KINGDOM)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[21-2- brief 21036801 Remmelts official submission Ramsar COP 1.pdf](#) - letter of Head Admin. Auth.

### Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority

> Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

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)

Name and title

> Vacant

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

Name and title

> Vacant

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

Name and title

> Vacant

## 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)

> Several new Dutch Caribbean Ramsar sites have been designated, merged or enlarged. Aruba has enlarged its Ramsar site Spaans Lagoen and is in the process to designate the new fresh water Ramsar sites Bubali (fresh water swamp) and the marine sites Oostpunt (East point) and Zuidkust (Southcoast). The latter two cover approximately 30 km of Aruba's coastline and include sea turtle nesting beaches, tern breeding islands, mangrove forests, coral reefs and sea grass beds among others. Curacao has designated Ramsar site Klein Curacao. Bonaire has merged its Ramsar sites Slagbaai and Gotomeer into one site and also included several Salina's and fresh water streams (so-called small wetlands). It also included 500 m bufferzones within the Ramsar site designations.

2)

> Publication (March 2020) of the NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY PLAN CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS 2020-2030 (NEPP). This plan includes four long-term strategic goals and twelve targets at the scale of the Caribbean islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. This will potentially have a direct or indirect positive impact on the conservation status of the islands Ramsar sites and other wetlands.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Nature and Environment Policy Plan Caribbean Netherlands 2020-2030.pdf](#) - Nature and Environment Policy Plan Caribbean Netherlands 2020-2030

3)

> The management and eradication of thousands of free roaming goats and other livestock in the Caribbean Netherlands has started. This is a key tangible action from the NEPP. Stopping overgrazing will bring the desertification to a halt, will allow for recovery of natural vegetation which will slow down soil erosion and the sedimentation of Salina's, mangroves, coral reefs and sea grass beds. The process towards this action was difficult and can therefore be considered a great achievement for all stakeholders concerned.

4)

> Thanks to funding by The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (in Dutch: Ministry of LNV) through the Nature Fund, the Public Entity of Bonaire (Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire) has been coordinating a 4-year project (2015-2019) entitled "Ecological restoration Lac and south coast Bonaire". It improved the biodiversity of Lac Bay and the south coastline of Bonaire by restoring hydrological conditions, protecting biodiversity and promoting sustainable tourism.

5)

> Implementation of the waste water program on Bonaire, as part of the NEPP and implementation of the waste water treatment plant at St. Maarten.

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

1)

> Reversing threats: The Caribbean wetlands face major threats like from sedimentation, invasive species, pollution and disturbance. These threats cannot be dealt with at site-level, but need (more) actions at the island level. After all, this will be the only way to make the wetlands healthy and resilient to even larger threats from climate change. The new NEPP 2020-2030 for the Caribbean Netherlands is a promising step in this respect, though Curacao, Aruba and St. Maarten would need a similar nature policy plan at island level. Sint Maarten however has a Nature Policy Plan in draft form that is intended for the 2021 - 2025 period.

2)

> Taking management actions: Wetland management actions are often carried out with the help of volunteers, although some sites need substantial restoration measures carried out by contractors. Lack of capacity and funding prevent the implementation of such measures.

3)

> Collection of monitoring data: Wetland monitoring data are important to observe trends and take (pro-active) management actions. These data are scarce except for some colony birds and sea turtle nests. This is mainly due to lack of capacity and funding.

4)

> Awareness raising: The small islands in the Caribbean face the problems that are typical for small island developing states (SIDS). With their small area and small populations they have to deal with limited capacity, very few and limited resources, and no hinterland. Their economies are completely dependent on outside factors and in most cases tourism is the main driver of the economy (which explains why these islands are hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic). This results in a constant pressure to develop more area to accommodate more tourism and thus provide for economic growth. This is one of the greatest threats to the coastal (wetlands) ecosystems, the loss of which would eventually destroy tourism. Yet biodiversity conservation is generally perceived on the islands as being in conflict with economic development instead of being an integral factor for economic development. Consequently it is very difficult to argue the need to protect wetlands. Bonaire's tourism master plan The Caribbean's 1st Blue Destination (2017-2027) is opposite to this and a welcoming vision in this respect.

5)

> Sargassum: The relatively recent development of (annual) periods with large amounts of sargassum influxes has presented the Caribbean with a new challenge to manage the marine and coastal ecosystem.

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

1)

> Implementation of the NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY PLAN CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS 2020 -2030 (NEPP). This plan addresses the major threats for the wetlands in the Caribbean Netherlands (islands of Bonaire, Sana and St. Eustatius).

2)

> Implementation of the Nature Policy Plan Sint Maarten 2021 -2025 (NPP-25) (Currently in draft form).

3)

> Development and implementation of management plans for all Ramsar sites concerned.

4)

> Implementation of Aruba's Nature and Environmental Policy Document 2018-2021 and Nature Resource Management following the National Strategic Plan 2020-2022.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Nature and Environmental Policy Document 2018-2021, Aruba](#) - Nature and Environmental Policy Document 2018-2021, Aruba

5)

> Participation from the Caribbean Netherlands in the Caribbean Wetlands Regional Initiative (CARIWET).

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

> It is considered important that the 15 Ramsar Sites from the Dutch Caribbean are (also) integrated in the Caribbean database rather than the European database. To date these Dutch Caribbean sites are still not visible in the Caribbean part of the RSIS database (see weblink).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Dutch Caribbean Ramsar sites only in European Database](#) - The Dutch Caribbean Ramsar sites are only documented in the European Database and not in the Caribbean database

### **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)**

> Exchange of expertise and training are essential in the management of wetlands.

### **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)?**

> • SPAW Protocol: The SPAW Protocol is the main regional instrument to implement the CBD and protection of wetlands (mangroves, coral reefs, sea grasses, coastal nature conservation) is an important part of its work. SPAW has an Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ramsar Convention. Mutual participation in meetings is satisfactory.

• IAC: The inter-American Sea Turtle Convention shares many common goals with Ramsar in the protection of

wetlands since sea turtle nesting beaches and foraging areas are all located in wetlands. The Lac Ramsar site on Bonaire has been identified as a very important foraging area for sea turtles that grow faster there than anywhere else in the Caribbean. Protection of sea turtles in Lac goes hand in hand with the protection of the seagrasses of this wetland area. A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ramsar Caribbean Wetlands Initiative and IAC was signed in 2012.

- CITES: Conch (*Strombus gigas*) is listed on appendix II of CITES and is an important fishery target species. Wetlands with seagrasses are very important to these shellfish and sustainable use of conch is dependent on protection of these wetlands.
- WHMSI: The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative is an informal platform of countries in the Western Hemisphere to cooperate in the protection of migratory species. As many migratory species are dependent on wetlands there is natural overlap of the objectives of WHMSI and Ramsar. Ramsar has a seat in the Steering Committee of WHMSI and we are satisfied with this cooperation.
- ICRI: The Caribbean Netherlands are an important coral reef area and participate in the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).
- WHC: Bonaire and Curacao are working towards a World Heritage nomination that combines the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP; which also includes the Lac and Klein Bonaire Ramsar Sites and the buffer areas of the other three Ramsar Sites where they extend into the marine park.) and the Curaçao Marine Park (CMP), as well as deeper benthic areas and pelagic areas located in the Territorial Seas and EEZs of both islands. For Bonaire, future linkage of the Ramsar Convention should be sought with the World Heritage Convention.

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?

> The goals of the Ramsar Convention are an integral part of the NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY PLAN CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS 2020 -2030 (NEPP). This plan is linked to the other policies and strategies that are at stake on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. Improvements should be sought in comparable integrated nature policy plans for the other Caribbean islands. The goals of the Ramsar convention are also integrated into the Nature Policy Plan Sint Maarten 2021-2025.

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.

> Many women participate in wetland policy making, management and research and several hold (or have held) key positions therein. The present ministers for Spatial Planning and Environment, Infrastructure and Watermanagement and Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality are women. The Dutch government believes that both women and men should be economically independent, and therefore actively promotes labour participation and equal opportunities for women. Whether participation in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research is balanced in the Dutch Caribbean is not exactly clear. An overview is not available and job positions often change.

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

> The Ramsar obligations are generally well integrated into policies and strategies (see G) especially in the nature policy plan for the Caribbean Netherlands (NEPP). The impacts of sedimentation, pollution, invasive species, disturbance, habitat destruction etc. are seriously threatening the conservation status of most wetlands. Actions at island level and an increase in capacity and funding are needed to reverse this trend.

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

> The National office for the Caribbean Netherlands (in Dutch Rijksdienst Caribbean Netherlands; RCN) and the governments of Curacao, Aruba and St. Maarten.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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 type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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

> The Nature and Environment Policy Plan Caribbean Netherlands 2020-2030 (NEPP) deals with nearly all topics described above. This is less extensive for the constituent countries Curacao, Aruba and St. Maarten, which explains several answers 'C'. More specifically:

a. The National Policy or strategy for wetland management is an integral part of the NEPP. Aruba completed a TEEB study in 2018, which may be considered an important step towards the development of a sustainable island economy.

b. The NEPP has formulated a target on Creating quality employment through investments in nature management (incl. 2 milestones).

c. The NEPP has formulated targets on Rainwater management (incl. 3 milestones) and Adequate waste water treatment (8).

d. The NEPP has formulated targets on Coral reef restoration (incl. 4 milestones); Conservation and restoration of key habitats (15); Conservation of keystone and flagship species (4) and Prevent new and control established invasive species (7). Within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the management of the marine biodiversity and fisheries in the waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Caribbean part of the Kingdom has been signed by all except Aruba.

e. The NEPP has formulated a target on Sustainable coastal development (incl. 6 milestones).

f. The NEPP has formulated a target on Conservation and restoration of key habitats (incl. 15 milestones) among which restoration efforts in dry and tropical forest ecosystems and mangroves to stimulate the regeneration of endemic vegetation.

g. The NEPP has formulated a target on Investing in sustainable local food production (incl. 7 milestones).

- h. The Nature and Environment Policy Plan Caribbean Netherlands 2020-2030 (NEPP) has been adopted in March 2020. Aruba has a nature and environment policy plan 2018 – 2021 and a National Strategic Plan 2020-2022 with Chapter 3 on Natural Resource Management. This NSP is Aruba's investment plan to implement the SDG. The Directorate of Nature and Environment of Aruba nominated new protected areas (e.g. Ramsar sites). Curacao has several park management plans, but no nature policy plan. Sint Maarten has a draft "Nature Policy Plan Sint Maarten 2021-2025" or (NPP-25) which will be released shortly.
- i. The Ministry of Economic Affairs works on the development of Sustainable and affordable energy (wind, solar, geothermal) in the Caribbean Netherlands.
- j. The NEPP has formulated a target on Tourism industry in balance with nature conservation (incl. 6 milestones).
- k. Urban and infrastructural developments are dealt with by the Spatial Planning and Development Framework Act BES (Wet grondslagen ruimtelijke ontwikkelingsplanning BES). The national government investigates this Act which can support and strengthen the NEPP and local spatial development plans. There is also a National ordinance for spatial development planning (Landsverordening ruimtelijke ontwikkelingsplanning) for Sint Maarten (link: [https://decentrale.regelgeving.overheid.nl/cvdr/xhtmloutput/historie/Sint%20Maarten/207455/207455\\_1.html](https://decentrale.regelgeving.overheid.nl/cvdr/xhtmloutput/historie/Sint%20Maarten/207455/207455_1.html)). St. Maarten also has (draft) zoning plans and (draft) spatial development strategies which take into account wetland conservation – mostly as this relates to the flood retention capacities of the wetlands.
- l. See k.
- m. The NEPP has formulated targets for industries like tourism, fisheries and agriculture.
- n. The NEPP has formulated a target on Sustainable fisheries (incl. 9 milestones). Within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the management of the marine biodiversity and fisheries in the waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Caribbean part of the Kingdom has been signed by all except Aruba.
- o. The NEPP has formulated targets on Solid waste management (incl. 8 milestones) and Adequate wastewater treatment (8). The Environment Act BES (Wet VROM BES) addresses environmental pollution and environmental impact assessments.
- p. The NEPP has formulated targets on Adequate waste water treatment (incl. 8 milestones). St. Maarten government allocated land for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant in May 2020.

## 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

> This is generally not an issue in the Caribbean as most wetlands are an integral part of or connected to the Caribbean sea. However, soil erosion has led to sedimentation of wetland areas, like Salinas, mangroves and coral reefs. This has led to restoration measures (sediment extraction) as carried out at the Ramsar sites Spaans Lagoen (Aruba) and Lac Baai (Bonaire). The improved water flows have allowed for the regrowth of mangrove trees in both sites.

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

C=Partially

### 2.2 Additional Information

> Assessments in the Caribbean Netherlands revealed that erosion and water runoff are a substantial threat for all wetland habitats among which Salina's, mangroves, coral reefs and sea grass beds. Mitigation measures and reversing the threat are targets within the NEPP.

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.)

B=No

### 2.3 Additional Information

> No major river basins exist on the Caribbean islands.



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

> For example, thanks to funding by The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (in Dutch: LNV) through the Nature Fund, the Public Entity of Bonaire (Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire) has been coordinating a 4-year project (2015-2019) entitled "Ecological restoration Lac and south coast Bonaire". The goal was to improve the biodiversity of Lac bay and the south coastline of Bonaire by restoring hydrological conditions, protecting biodiversity and promoting sustainable tourism.

St. Maarten implements the Waste Water Treatment Plant for the Cole Bay. Proper waste management in the Cole Bay (and Marigot) area will greatly improve the water quality of the Simpson Bay Lagoon and also the Mullet Pond RAMSAR site. Students have carried out economic valuations of the Simpson Bay Lagoon and assessed different management scenarios. This was published in the journal of nature conservation and is informative for the creation of policy and a management plan.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Waste Water Treatment Plant for the Cole Bay, St. Maarten](#)

#### 2.5 Additional Information

> It's not exactly known and it differs per island. Most households have a cess pit or septic tank, which is regularly pumped out. Some are linked to a public sewerage system, like some households of Aruba in the area of Bubali, Oranjestad, Palm Beach and San Nicolas area. No such system exists on Curacao, Saba and St. Eustatius, mainly due to the rocky soil. Bonaire currently has some 1,000 household connections, out of a total of 7,000 households. Nevertheless, the NEPP has formulated targets on Adequate waste water treatment (incl. 8 milestones) for the islands of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. This includes regulations concerning a ban on cesspits which enables enforcement on leaking septic tanks on all three islands (2030).

The waste water purification facility planned for the Cole Bay area at St. Maarten will have a capacity of 17,500 PE. The Dutch Quarter sewage project financed through the 10th European Development Fund, which broke ground in 2018, will lead to an expansion of the sewer network in Dutch Quarter including over 500 home connections to the main sewer line.

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

X=Unknown

#### 2.6 Additional Information

> This is 0% for Saba and St. Eustatius. For St. Maarten, Curacao, and Aruba the coverage is also limited but not exactly known. For Bonaire percentage sewerage coverage is about 15%, mainly along the coastal zone in order to protect the reefs from sewerage water.

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

X=Unknown

#### 2.7 Additional Information

> The majority of households/firms use (leak) septic tanks where the waste water from time to time is picked up by a tank to clean it in the sewage treatment plant. Especially older homes have cesspits and the waste water from cesspools disappears into the soil and groundwater.

2.8 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

B=No

#### 2.8 Additional Information

> Overflow of the wastewater treatment plant is used to create a fresh water wetland on Bonaire. On Aruba, the Bubali wetland is created by effluent from a waste water treatment plant. However, these wetlands are not constructed for waste water treatment purposes. Neither on Sint Maarten, the created effluent from the waste water treatment facility on A.T. Illidge Road is released into the "Fresh Pond" which occasionally connects and flows into the Great Bay (and ocean).

2.9 Number of wastewater treatment plants (or volume treated exist at national level)?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

E=Exact number (plants)

> 9

## 2.9 Additional Information

> • Saba: 0 plants

• St. Eustatius: 0 plants

• St. Maarten: 1 plant, government allocated land for the construction of an additional plant in 2020

• Bonaire: 1 plant

• Aruba: 3 plants

• Curacao: 4 plants

The water treatment capacity is generally insufficient on all islands.

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

Q=Obsolete

## 2.10 Additional Information

> In general the functional status is obsolete, though the functional status of some plants (like the relatively new plant on Bonaire) is good. The wastewater treatment plant on Sint Maarten is functioning. However, it is not operating at full capacity as there are not enough sewerage connections to link additional households.

2.11 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

X=Unknown

## 2.12 Additional Information

> There is some reuse of waste water, like on Aruba where advanced treatment plants utilize tertiary filtration (disc filter) and UV disinfection, which allows a large portion of the wastewater to be reused for internal plant use and irrigation. Also Bonaire collects waste water, transports it, purifies it and reuses the water finally as irrigation water and wetland creation. Often reuse is restricted though as the effluent quality may cause health hazards or damage to crops and nature. The NEPP therefore foresees a ban on irrigation with treated wastewater within and adequate distance from the highwater mark by 2024.

2.13 What is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system if relevant to your country ?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

R=Agriculture

## 2.13 Additional Information

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

> Mainly reuse for irrigation of agricultural land, though it may also be reused in the wastewater plant itself.

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

B=No

2.14 Additional information: If Yes, please provide an example

> Although the Bubali Wetlands on Aruba receives effluent from a waste water treatment plant, the site itself has no water treatment purposes. Same for the waste water treatment plant at St. Maarten where the effluent first goes through the "Fresh Pond" before being released into Great Bay.

## 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

C=Partially

### 3.1 Additional Information

> The private sector is encouraged to apply sustainability principles, which will benefit wetlands, though substantial differences exist between the islands. Some specifics:

- The NEPP has formulated sustainable development targets (e.g. wise use) for industries like tourism, fisheries and agriculture for the Caribbean Netherlands (islands of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius) which need to be achieved between 2020-2030. Getting rid of thousands of free-roaming livestock can be considered one of the top priorities for the conservation of terrestrial and marine biodiversity. No such policy concerning free-roaming livestock exists on the other islands.
- In 2018 the tourism sector at Bonaire, in cooperation with the nature conservation stakeholders, published their vision for Bonaire: The Caribbean's 1st Blue Destination (2017-2027).
- Part of the application of the Marine Park Management Plan at Sint Maarten concerns the inclusion of user fees for tourists (divers) to be able to access the MPA. Dive operators are required to inform the Nature Foundation for the payment of the fee and are policed by the foundation. Tags can be bought directly online (<https://sintmaarten.reefsupport.org/>). The funds go directly to the Nature Foundation.
- An ambitious green energy program (Building a Sustainable Future) is being implemented at Curacao that will gradually reduce dependence on fossil fuels with the aim of achieving 50% green energy by 2035. However, this is principally based on two wind farms situated in areas sensitive to both nesting seabirds and near roosting caves for endangered bats. The green energy program also includes an ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) component.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Sint Maarten Nature Foundation - Dive operators are required to inform the Nature Foundation for the payment of the fee and are policed by the foundation. Tags can be bought directly online. The funds go directly to the Nature Foundation.

### 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

- > • Dive operators active on the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands (islands of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius) routinely instruct their customers on how to behave on sensitive coral reefs. They also actively help with their customers to eliminate invasive lionfish, like on Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao and St. Maarten.
- Dive Friends Bonaire runs a Debris Free Bonaire program of eco-friendly activities and collection of debris washed ashore for separation at the dive shop. It also organises quarterly ocean clean-up dives, which are well attended by volunteers. The first Dive Friends Bonaire quarterly clean-up dive, organised in partnership with Stinapa and STCB, was held on Saturday 27 January 2018. The turnout was outstanding, with 116 volunteers participating. In addition, an OSPAR beach litter monitoring project was set up in a citizen science project in August 2018.
- At the Lac Ramsar Site some of the private operators have helped to fund awareness/information programs and in one case a resort has taken on the maintenance of floating lines to protect sea grass. Two kayak tour operators work closely with the management organization and play an important role in creating awareness and compliance with the rules for use of the area.
- Cargill Salt Company manages the Pekelmeer Ramsar site at Bonaire and contributes to monitoring of bird species and communicates with government regarding conservation issues.
- Reef-It Sint Maarten is an educational Snorkel Park and Nursery designed to help regenerate coral reefs with the assistance of the St. Maarten Nature Foundation (see weblink).
- IGY Marina and Tri-Sport at St. Maarten assisted with the Sea Shepherd cleanup of the mangroves (Tri-Sport donated use of kayaks and IGY handled waste collection). Tri sport continuously assists with EPIC's mangrove educational events by providing use of their equipment.
- PDP marina at St. Maarten funded an Education Outreach Officer for Nature Foundation for one-year (see weblink).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Reef-It - Reef-It Sint Maarten is a Snorkel Park and Nursery designed to help regenerate coral reefs with the assistance of the St. Maarten Nature Foundation.

Nature Foundation St. Maarten - PDP marina at St. Maarten funded an Education Outreach Officer for Nature Foundation for one-year

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

C=Partially

#### 3.3 Additional information

- › • The NEPP aims to implement (fiscal) incentives and enforcement to achieve compliance with waste management policies by 2030
- Diver fees have to be paid by divers in Bonaire and St. Maarten to access the marine parks. The revenues are used for nature conservation purposes.

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

Z=Not Applicable

### Target 4

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

{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

› Invasive species are a major threat to the terrestrial and marine environment of all six islands in the Dutch Caribbean. Extensive inventories have been carried out for the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, Saba, St. Eustatius). Inventories (2011/2012) are also available for Curacao, Aruba and Sint Maarten.

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

C=Partially

#### 4.2 Additional information

› • The NEPP has a target to Prevent new and control established invasive species. Currently, the Caribbean Netherlands suffers from a range of invasive species in the marine and terrestrial environments. To control invasive species populations, management strategies will focus on effective removal (for example, of lionfish, rats, and feral cats and dogs), and also on a holistic ecosystem restoration approach (for example for corallita and seagrass). An inventory will be established to monitor the populations of invasive species. To control alien species entering the ecosystems of the Caribbean Netherlands through marine and aerial transportation, an effective biocontrol policy will be implemented mainly by customs and harbour personnel. Monitoring of high-risk species and early response strategies has to be in place to control alien species at an early stage. The aim is to implement the biocontrol and management strategies by 2024 and to control all invasive species populations by 2030.

• Aruba is actively contributing to development of an invasive alien species strategy. The Lion Fish Foundation conducts lionfish control and the Aruba National Park does its best to control the invasive Boa constrictor (snake) population.

• Curaçao as well as Sint Maarten are actively contributing to the development of an invasive alien species strategy. Nature Foundation at St. Maarten runs a program to control lionfish and has a Lionfish Response Plan since 2010. The Nature Foundation has also started a new project to find solutions for the continuing issues created by the invasive vervet monkey on the island.

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

B=No

#### 4.3 Additional Information

If 'Yes', please provide examples, including the species name and the successful management action

› All islands carried out eradication measures but these generally seem to be insufficient to actually control the invasive species concerned.

- Bonaire has identified certain invasive species (i.e. Lionfish and the Rubber Vine) upon which eradication procedures have been established through nature legislation.
- On Aruba there were two consecutive years of volunteer hunts of Boa Constrictor and thereafter the Boa hunt went on uncoordinated, but these don't keep pace with the increasing Boa population.
- Nature Foundation at St. Maarten runs a program to control lionfish and has a Lionfish Response Plan since 2010. In 2019, the Nature Foundation removed an eight-foot-long boa constrictor that was found in a storage unit, removing the potential of this snake to become highly invasive to nearby wetland habitats. (see weblink).
- Dive operators on Curacao are actively controlling lionfish numbers. However, widespread lionfish populations between 30 and 150 m deep could be responsible for maintaining high densities of lionfish recruits, despite local shallow-biased control programs. This highlights the need for management plans that include lionfish populations below the depth limit of recreational diving in order to address all aspects of the local population and maximise the effectiveness of control efforts. Curaçao government has eradicated a rapidly expanding cat population on Klein Curaçao to protect the nesting terns.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[St. Maarten Nature Foundation](#) - (Potentially) invasive Boa Constrictor removed from St. Maarten

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

> Several species, like Lionfish, invasive seagrass, Green Iguana and Boa Constrictor but also rats and cats that predate on ground nesting birds and eggs.

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

D=Planned

#### 4.5 Additional Information

> The NEPP has a target to Prevent new and control established invasive species in the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius). This not only includes measures to effectively remove and control invasive species populations but also inventories to monitor the populations of invasive species.

For the other islands (Curacao, Bonaire and St. Maarten) the capacity and funding for monitoring is generally lacking.

## 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

C=Partially

#### 5.1 Additional information

> • The RIS for Bonaire have recently been updated. Most of the important habitats in the Caribbean Netherlands are currently officially designated as protected areas. However, there are still some that are not, or are not effectively enforced. It's one of the targets in the NEPP that the current system of protected areas will be reviewed to ensure the protection of key habitat functions, such as migratory corridors, nursery and foraging areas. Cave systems (incl. underwater caves) and important breeding areas for sea and shorebirds need to be protected by local regulation and management, while the management of Ramsar sites will be evaluated and improved.

- RIS for Aruba have recently been updated while newly Ramsar sites have been established.
- Curacao designated 4 Ramsar sites in 2013 and 1 (Klein Curacao) in 2018.
- No further designation of Ramsar sites is currently foreseen.

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

> For Bonaire the RSIS has been used to update, enlarge and/or merge the Bonarian Ramsar sites. For Aruba the RSIS has been used to update and develop the (new) Aruban Ramsar Sites.

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

E=Exact number (sites)

> 4

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)

> 4

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)

> 7

### 5.3 – 5.5 Additional information

> There are currently 15 Ramsar sites in the Dutch Caribbean: 4 on Bonaire (formerly 5, but two sites have been merged), 5 on Curacao, 5 on Aruba and 1 on St. Maarten. Saba and Statia have no Ramsar sites.

- Bonaire has 4 Ramsar sites of which 3 have a formal management plan. Lac Baai, Klein Bonaire and the sea/reefs around Washington Slagbaai are part of the Bonaire National Marine Park Management Plan (2006). The site Washington Slagbaai is part of the Washington Slagbaai National Park Management Plan (2005). Both management plans are implemented but outdated. One Ramsar site is managed by a private company Cargill Salt Bonaire.

- Curacao has 5 Ramsar sites but no formal management plan yet. All have a management plan proposed but these are still being fine-tuned and are not yet fully implemented.

- Aruba: Aruba has 5 Ramsar sites of which 1 has a formal management plan. Spaans Lagoen has been incorporated within the Arikok National Park in 2017 and has a management plan for Spaans Lagoen (November 2017). The 4 newly designated Ramsar sites have no management plan yet.

- St. Maarten: the one Ramsar site on St. Maarten (Mullet Pond) has a Simpson Bay Lagoon Management Plan Proposal but this is still not formal.

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 NEPP aims to evaluate and improve the management of Ramsar sites in the Caribbean Netherlands in the period 2020-2030. Meanwhile, Ramsar sites management effectiveness has been assessed via other means like Lac Baai between 2010-2018 (see weblink).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Ecological restoration mangroves Lac Bay](#) - Research program

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)

> 3

### 5.7 Additional information

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

> Three of the four Ramsar Sites on Bonaire fall under the management of the National Park Foundation, Stinapa Bonaire. The Board of Stinapa Bonaire consists of representatives of all relevant sectors. In addition, nature management decisions are subject to advice from the Island Nature Commission which includes representatives from various sectors.

Once the management plans of the four sites on Curacao are fully implemented, they will include strong involvement of the local community.

## 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

C=Some Sites

#### 7.1 Additional information

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

> The NEPP foresees in the evaluation and improvement of the management of Ramsar sites (n=4) in the Caribbean Netherlands in the period 2020-2030. For the other 11 Caribbean sites there is a lack of capacity and funding for adequate monitoring of human induced changes or likely changes of the ecological character.

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

C=Some Cases

#### 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

> The updated versions of the RIS contain all information (as far as known) of human-induced changes.

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

> Currently no Ramsar sites in the Dutch Caribbean are listed on the Montreux record.

### 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

C=In Progress

#### 8.1 Additional information

> • The NEPP aims to review the current system of protected areas in the Caribbean Netherlands to ensure the protection of key habitat functions, such as migratory corridors, nursery and foraging areas, underwater cave systems and important breeding areas for sea and shorebirds.

• For Curacao an inventory of nine potential Ramsar sites has resulted in the designation of four sites in 2013 and one in 2018.

• For Aruba an inventory of 16 nature sites resulted in the designation of four new Ramsar sites.

Wetland monitoring and collection of management relevant data is still a concern though due to capacity and budget constraints.

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

C1=Partially

#### 8.2 Additional information

> See answer under 8.1

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

A=Yes

#### 8.3 Additional information

> Past couple of years the Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database has been developed which contains lots of information (scientific articles, research reports, maps, media etc.) on biodiversity for all 6 Dutch Caribbean Islands (see weblink).

This is a substantial improvement as in the past most data and studies were widely scattered and hard to access by managers or policy decision makers. Also the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (see weblink)

maintains lots of information on nature.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance](#)

[Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database](#)

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

> The Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database is available for all stakeholders (<http://www.dcbd.nl/>), as well as specific Ramsar information at the Ramsar Sites Information Service ([www.rsis.ramsar.org](http://www.rsis.ramsar.org)).

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)

> The period of three years is too short and the available data too limited to assess any change, but overall the impression is that there is no substantial change.

Restoration measures in Ramsar site Spaans Lagoen on Aruba in 2016-2017 have resulted in the natural settlement of juvenile mangrove trees (see weblink), though official monitoring data are not available.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Mangrove restoration Spaans Lagoen](#)

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.

X=Unknown

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km<sup>2</sup>)

> 142.4

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km<sup>2</sup>)

> 0

8.6 Human-made wetlands total (km<sup>2</sup>)

> 6.3

#### 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.

> The information below excludes the enlargement of the existing Aruban Ramsar site as well as the three new marine/coastal Aruban Ramsar sites. These four Aruban sites will measure approx. 82.56 km<sup>2</sup> in total, 0.84 km<sup>2</sup> of which is human made. The designation process is planned to be finalised in 2021.

The 11 Ramsar sites in the Dutch Caribbean measured some 148.7 km<sup>2</sup> in total by the end of 2020. This also includes areas deeper than 6 metres, subterranean underwater caves off which the area is unknown, as well as arid terrestrial terrain that acts as water catchment area for the wetlands concerned. A figure in square kilometres for the extent of wetlands according to the Ramsar definition can therefore not be provided, let alone a specification per wetland type. However, all Ramsar sites can be considered Marine/Coastal except for the dammed 6.3 km<sup>2</sup> fresh water Ramsar site Muizenberg (Curacao) and the 5.5 km<sup>2</sup> salt pans within Ramsar



site Pekelmeer (Bonaire), which are used for salt production.

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

> The most important 'wetlands of international importance' in the Dutch Caribbean have currently been designated as Ramsar Sites. Capacity and funding to monitor the wetlands biodiversity values is still a bottleneck, especially for Curacao, Aruba and St. Maarten. This means that the challenges concerning the national wetland inventory remain.

## 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

> The NEPP 2020-2030 (March 2020) aims that management plans are developed, or updated, with stakeholder involvement and evaluated yearly for all protected areas in the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, Saba, St. Eustatius) including Ramsar sites by 2024. Bonaire also developed a Nature Plan Bonaire 2020-2024 (January 2020). According to their National Nature Act (Landsverordening grondslagen natuurbeheer en -bescherming), St. Maarten and Curaçao would need to publish and update a Nature Policy Plan every five years, though these are currently not available. Sint Maarten has prepared a Nature Policy Plan Sint Maarten 2021 - 2025 which should be available to the public within short.

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

> Not during past triennium.

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

> Rivers do not exist at the Dutch Caribbean islands, but the wetlands are treated at the scale of their water catchment area.

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

> Some examples:

- On Bonaire, Boneiru Duradero focuses on awareness and community activity and is funded by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) a.o. The main focus is on reducing waste (plastics) via public campaigns and training. The campaigns reach many people via social media. On Sint Eustatius and Bonaire the national government funds dedicated communication/outreach programs to increase awareness of nature on these islands. The Nature Awareness program on Sint Eustatius organises a variety of workshops, signage, webcams, social media messages, after school programs and exhibits a youth ambassador program. The Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute (CNSI) on Sint Eustatius offers space and an information centre/library for its outreach function. On Bonaire the nos ta biba di naturalesa (we live off nature) program uses a website, social media and TV programmes and videos to highlight all activities on the island concerning nature and environment. Active NGO's on Bonaire also include: Mangrove Maniacs, a group of volunteers who help to manage the mangroves in Lac Bay by keeping the canals open or creating new canals; Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire; Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire.
- Aruban NGOs are very active and provide regular information on a variety of topics. Active NGOs include Arikok National Park Foundation, Aruba Marine Park Foundation, Aruba Marine Mammal Foundation, TurtugAruba and Aruba Birdlife Conservation (ABC). ABC launched a campaign to prevent illegal dumping, a campaign to prevent the extinction of the Shoco (Aruban burrowing owl) and a campaign on the impact of the

invasive Boa constrictor as well as field days to actually catch them.

- Curacao NGOs are very active and provide regular information on a variety of topics. Active NGOs include Amigoe di Tera, Defensa Ambiental, Carmabi, Uniek Curaçao and Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao (STCC). These organisations actively engage the public. CARMABI Foundation runs a government funded school education program reaching thousands of schoolchildren annually. Its Nature and Environment Programme consists of a Terrestrial Education Programme and a Marine Education Programme, including guided tours within the parks, presentations, interactive exercises and a visit to the CARMABI Marine Education Center. Uniek Curaçao runs an outreach programme to local businesses and civic groups, taking them on nature tours to let employees and social groups experience and appreciate the island's nature. They also publicise illegal rubbish dumping in nature areas to promote awareness, and organise regular clean-ups throughout the year. STCC organises different activities to raise awareness about sea turtles and their protection. The organisation has an educational program for schoolchildren and holds presentations for the general public, companies and tourists. They have installed informative signs on several public beaches about the turtles and the threats they face. They also hold public beach clean-ups on a regular basis. The plastic collected during these clean-ups is recycled. Hotels and the public support the lionfish control project. Biodiversity information in the native language (Papiamentu) regularly appears in the newspapers and on national television.
- Active NGOs on Sint Maarten are the Nature Foundation (NF), EPIC and SIMARC. The NGOs provide regular information on a variety of topics, host awareness workshops and pilot various environmental projects, such as the mangrove restoration project, Green Key auditing, certification and shark awareness week. From June 2017 to March 2018 the EPIC Foundation carried out a restoration project funded by the EU through the BEST 2.0 funding mechanism. The project focused on the restoration of biodiversity at three sites on Sint Maarten, two terrestrial sites and one coastal site. EPIC aimed to increase the appreciation for habitat restoration for biodiversity preservation by planting 500 trees and 300 red mangroves with student and community volunteers. The project supported schools and community groups by offering presentations and outdoor activities focusing on the importance of biodiversity. During the project, approximately 1,250 people participated in the various educational and volunteer opportunities. Hotels, dive operators and the general community support various conservation activities, including the management of the Marine Park Area (MPA), the coral restoration program, shark conservation, terrestrial conservation and awareness incentives and the need for solid waste management.
- PDP marina funded an Education Outreach Officer for Nature Foundation for one-year (see weblink).
- The Nature Foundation St. Maarten hosted the first (free) Coral Education Snorkel for local students funded by the 'Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds'. There will be two more of these educational events. They are also conducting a Junior Ranger Program whereby youth will also have the opportunity to learn to scuba dive (see weblink).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Nature Foundation St. Maarten](#) - Yacht Club Port de Plaisance Sint Maarten Supports Educational Outreach Position at Nature Foundation St. Maarten

[Nature Foundation St. Maarten](#) - Junior Ranger Program; children can learn to dive.

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

C=Partially

#### 9.5 Additional information

> The NEPP gives special attention to the protection and restoration of coral reefs and other key habitats aiming to maximize their resilience in the face of climate change. This is crucial to enhance ecosystem services like coastal protection and provision of fresh water. The upcoming Nature Policy Plan Sint Maarten 2021-2025 will give similar attention to the wetlands of Sint Maarten.

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

C=Partially

#### 9.6 Additional information

> Although historically important, local agriculture and livestock industries have become marginal economic sectors on all Dutch Caribbean islands. No fresh water wetlands are relevant to farming systems. With the exception of karst systems that hold underground fresh water all wetlands are saline to hyper-saline. On the other hand there exists a system of dams to seasonally collect rainwater for irrigation. Such dams result in many cases in seasonal wetlands.

In the Caribbean Netherlands, the Ministry of I&W will work together with the local planning departments to develop and implement a rain water retention plan by 2024. This plan will focus on the development of clever infrastructure and construction to increase the water storage capacity of the land, as well as nature-based solutions (e.g. re- and afforestation) and sustainable agriculture.

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

> In the past a variety of research projects/monitoring have been conducted in the Bonaire Ramsar Sites. The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality has funded three research programs for the (Caribbean) Netherlands to be carried out by the Wageningen University and Research Centre.

- "Beleidsondersteunend onderzoek" (Policy Support Research): this research supports the realisation of the societal task of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

- "Wettelijke onderzoekstaken" (Legal Research Tasks): research to support laws and regulations.

- "Kennisbasisonderzoek" (Knowledgebase Research): research for the development of knowledge that will become relevant on a medium term for the Ministry and other social parties. The topics on agricultural interactions, climate change and valuation of ecosystem services are all covered by these three research programs.

For valuation of ecosystem services on St. Maarten see section 11.1

### 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

> • The Ramsar site Washington-Slagbaai is a merger of the Ramsar sites Gotomeer and Slagbaai and has been extended to also include Salinas (saline lakes) and small fresh water sources and streams. The latter are crucial for the provision of drinking water to fauna.

• The removal of free-roaming livestock has started at the islands of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius, while reforestation projects have started. Restoration of natural vegetation will enhance the water retention capacity of the environment which will result in an enhanced water supply of the small fresh water wetlands. In addition, the removal of livestock will prevent the trampling of the head of water sources.

## 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)

B=No

### 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

> See 9.4 for examples concerning the participation of local communities.

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)

B=No

## 10.3 Additional information

> Not relevant

## 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

> • Not on Ramsar-sites specifically but from 2012 onwards, TEEB-studies have been published for the islands of Bonaire (see weblink), St. Eustatius (see weblink) and Saba (see weblink).

The contribution of nature to the Caribbean island economies and the well-being of its residents is profoundly clear. The economies of the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands are highly dependent on tourism and fisheries, and thus on the natural environment.

The NEPP strives for 100% awareness of the population by 2030 regarding the benefits of healthy soils and sustainable water management for the natural environment and ecosystem services.

• Aruba also carried out a TEEB-study (see weblink) and aims to create awareness of the important contribution of natural capital to the achievement of SDGs among different stakeholder groups (see weblink)

• Curacao had an economic evaluation study carried out back in 2016 (see weblink). No significant study reports or promotion of results were carried out since.

• On St. Maarten, economic valuations of ecosystem services helped to designate the countries Marine Park in 2010 and Ramsar site Mullet Pond in 2016.

• On Sint Maarten, students from the VU Amsterdam have carried out economic valuations of the Simpson Bay Lagoon and of the marine resources of Sint Maarten. In 2019, three students from the VU Amsterdam carried out research on the Simpson Bay Lagoon and in 2020, one of the papers was published in the Journal of Nature Conservation (see weblink). This study conducted an economic valuation of the Simpson Bay Lagoon (both the French and Dutch side), providing the first economic valuation of a Caribbean island coastal lagoon. The findings of the choice experiment revealed that the Simpson Bay Lagoon in its current environmental state is worth US\$12.1 million per year to the residents of Saint Martin. Besides an economic valuation, this paper also scrutinized the welfare benefits of improved environmental management. Two environmental management scenarios were evaluated: the installation of a sewage treatment plant and mangrove restoration. Thereby helping to inform the creation of wetland policies for the Simpson Bay Lagoon (of which the Mullet Pond RAMSAR pond is located within).

• In 2020, despite constraints of covid-19, a student of the VU Amsterdam carried out a valuation study of the coastal and marine resources using aerial imagery. While this study has yet to be published, its findings will benefit wetland policy and planning of the wetland resources of Sint Maarten.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Valuing a Caribbean coastal lagoon using the choice experiment method](#): - Scientific paper

[Valuation of natural capital on Curaçao](#)

[Economic Valuation of Curaçao's Marine Resources](#)

[SDG Monitoring and Ecosystem Services for Aruba](#)

[TEEB Aruba](#)

[TEEB Saba](#)

[TEEB St. Eustatius](#)

[TEEB Bonaire](#)

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

> Tourism and fisheries are main economic drivers on all Caribbean islands. The designation and management of (marine) protected areas benefits both, the natural environment as well as the small island economies. This (indirectly) contributes to poverty alleviation.

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

C=Partially

11.3 Additional information

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

> Like for the Lac Ramsar Site on Bonaire.

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

11.4 Additional information

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

> One of the 2019 VU Amsterdam research students on St. Maarten focused on the Socio-cultural value of the Simpson Bay Lagoon (see weblink).

The Mullet Pond RAMSAR site of Sint Maarten is located within the Simpson Bay Lagoon.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[The socio-cultural value of the Simpson Bay Lagoon](#) - An economic valuation amongst the heterogeneous population of Saint Martin

## 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 Ramsar sites can be considered as the priority sites for wetland restoration. All formerly and newly designated sites need restoration measures like reforestation, excavation of silted mangroves, eradication of exotic flora and fauna species, restoration of reefs etc.

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

> Like:

- In the Caribbean Netherlands, a small-scale staghorn and elkhorn (*Acropora* spp.) coral restoration project has been piloted on Bonaire and is expanding with more nursery sites as well as outplanting sites. On Saba and Sint Eustatius similar coral restoration efforts are targeting the endangered *Acropora* spp. have started, but were severely set back by hurricanes Irma and Maria. On Bonaire an ecological water circulation restoration project has started in the Lac Ramsar site to maintain the health of the mangrove forests and the nursery function of the lagoon. The restoration efforts are small-scale though and insufficient to restore the terrestrial and marine ecosystems. For that the NEPP formulated its Strategic goal 1 - Reversing the trend of coral reef degradation to create healthy, resilient and restored coral reefs, ensuring well-being in the CN- and strategic goal 2 -Restore and conserve the unique habitats and species in the Caribbean Netherlands for current and future generations.
- Restoration projects on the other islands were also small-scale and insufficient to restore the ecosystems, like small-scale restoration in the Spaans Lagoen Ramsar site in 2016-2017 and a small mangrove reintroduction on the keys in front of Oranjestad harbour (Aruba); small-scale reforestation on the islet of Klein Curaçao and planting of mangrove trees (over a nine years period) in six bays (Curaçao); replanting of mangrove trees in Mullet Pond Ramsar site (St. Maarten) to restore the damage created by Hurricane Irma (see weblink).
- In August 2020, the Nature Foundation at St. Maarten successfully outplanted several *Acropora* coral fragments on the dive site Coralita in the Man of War Shoal Marine Protected Area of St. Maarten (see weblink).
- See also the BEST 2.0 project mentioned in 9.4

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Nature Foundations Outplants new Coral Colonies in the Marine Park, as part of the Coral Restoration Project. Impactful Re-greening SXM Project contributed to the resilience of St. Maarten.](#)

### 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Education and public awareness on peatlands	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) Policy and legislative instruments	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
d) Wise use of peatlands	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
e) Research networks, regional centres of expertise, and institutional capacity	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
f) International cooperation	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

g) Implementation and support	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
-------------------------------	---

### 12.3 Additional Information

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

> There are no peatlands on the Dutch Caribbean islands.

### 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

C=Partially

#### 13.1 Additional information

> For the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius, Saba) the Environment Act BES (Wet VROM BES) addresses environmental pollution and environmental impact assessments, among other topics that need to be addressed by an environmental policy plan. Environmental policies in the NEPP 2020-2030 cover topics such as wastewater, waste management, erosion and pollution.

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

C=Some Cases

#### 13.2 Additional information

> Sometimes, but it cannot be taken for granted, while also the quality of the EIA is sometimes inadequate.

### 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

> The Netherlands, through the focal point in the Caribbean Netherlands, is involved in the Caribbean Wetlands Initiative.

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 type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" 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

> The protected areas management organisations on most of the islands (but not all) have dedicated CEPA and active program to educate young people in particular about nature.

The Nature Foundation at St. Maarten for instance only has a CEPA and active program to educate in particular young people about nature when they are granted specific funding for this. (i.e. to hire an Education Outreach Officer).

See also the information provided under section 9.4.

Furthermore the NEPP 2020-2030 aims to Create awareness through education and training. Increased awareness among the local population and the local and national institutions is regarded a condition for successful nature management in the Caribbean Netherlands. The NEPP aims to engage departments and stakeholders from a wide range of sectors to support sustainable management of nature and natural resources. This requires a broad understanding of urgency that can only be achieved through training and education programs that target specific audiences on a regular long-term basis. Awareness and education should furthermore become integral throughout the implementation of each of the targets formulated in the NEPP.

### 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)

> 2

### 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

E=Exact Number (centres)

> 1

### 16.2 Additional information

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

> Both Bonaire and Curacau have an education centre:

- An education/recreational centre has been established at Washington Slagbaai (Bonaire) and a mangrove Info Centre at Lac Baai (Bonaire).

- The CARMABI Marine Education Centre (MEC) which was inaugurated in June 2015. The MEC is part of a broader Marine Education Program (MEP) designed specifically for the schools on Curaçao. The centre is located in the Piscadera neighborhood of Willemstad, close to Curacaos fringing reefs area.

- Though not a 'centre', Sint Maarten has one bird watching hut on the shore of the Little Bay Pond (not a RAMSAR registered wetland). The non-profit Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC) and the Nature Foundation partnered with Adventure of the Seas cruise ship to build the wildlife watching hut on the shore of



this wetland. There are some informational signs within the hut (see weblink).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Caribbean Birding Trail Little Bay Pond, St. Maarten

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

**16.3 Additional information**

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

- Increased awareness among the local population and the local and national institutions is regarded a condition for successful nature management in the Caribbean Netherlands. The NEPP 2020-2030 aims to engage departments and stakeholders from a wide range of sectors to support sustainable management of nature and natural resources.

- Local stakeholders, especially dive shop owners and volunteers participate in the elimination of invasive Lionfish, like on Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao and St. Maarten.
- On Bonaire 'Dive Friends Bonaire' started Debris Free Bonaire in December 2012 (see weblink).
- See also the information provided under section 9.4.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

DEBRIS FREE BONAIRE

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

B=No

**16.4 Additional information**

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

> Although such a Committee has been established for the Netherlands it does not cover the Caribbean islands.

**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

**16.6 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

> Regular information exchange meetings are held on Bonaire between the focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands, the island government, the protected areas management organization, and other relevant NGOs. The focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands is in close contact with the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the NFPs in the Netherlands.

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

> Not specifically a World Wetland Day but:

- Each year World Wetlands Day is celebrated in the Caribbean, on some islands more intensively than on others, like at Bonaire where excursions are organised in the mangrove forests of Lac Bay.
- Each year the Dutch Caribbean islands celebrate the migration of birds. Thanks to the support of Birds Caribbean and Environment for the America's, the parks and conservation organisations of the Dutch Caribbean are equipped with some of the latest and greatest bird education materials to support their migratory bird day events.

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

> See the information provided under section 9.4.

## 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

B=No

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

### 18.1 Additional information

> The focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands for Ramsar, SPAW, IAC, WHMSI and ICRI is based on Bonaire in the Caribbean and consequently cannot easily participate in a Netherlands based Committee. However there is close contact with the National focal points in the Netherlands. As yet there is no Ramsar/Wetland Committee for the Dutch Caribbean

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

> The focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands for the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean, which is the legal instrument of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme for the Caribbean, is also the focal point for the Ramsar Caribbean Initiative, assuring short communication lines between UNEP and Ramsar at the regional level.

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).

C=Partially

### 18.3 Additional information

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

- WWF-NL is an international partner of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, STCB (see weblink).
- WWF-NL also financially supports Boneiru Duradero on Bonaire with projects relevant to RAMSAR sites on sunscreen/plastics as well as SCF, SBMU and STENAPA. Additionally WWF-NL supports a fisheries project that aims to reduce fishing pressure on coastal habitats.
- Vogelbescherming Nederland (Dutch partner of Birdlife International) provides support through DCNA (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance) for bird monitoring, GIS training and other capacity building efforts for all the islands (see weblink).
- WWF-NL and DCNA funded a Sustainable Financing Workshop for Nature Management for the Nature Foundation Sint Maarten, which was provided by the Wolfs Company. The realisation of sustainable financing for nature management would greatly benefit the wetlands of Sint Maarten. (see weblink).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Nature Foundation St. Maarten](#) - Nature Foundation Attended Sustainable Financing Workshop for Nature Management Provided by the Wolfs Company and funded by the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance and WWF Netherlands.

[Vogelbescherming Nederland \(Dutch Society for the protection of birds\)](#)

[Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire](#)

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

> The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) is the umbrella organization of the protected areas (terrestrial and marine) management organizations of all six islands of the Dutch Caribbean. It functions as an effective network that regularly meets for knowledge exchange, organizes staff exchanges, and a wide range of training workshops, in many cases very relevant to management of wetlands. DCNA is a member organisation to the Caribbean Regional Committee of IUCN and the director of DCNA is a member of the Protected Areas Working Group of the SPAW-Protocol. The coordinator for the management of Lac Bay is a member of the Sargassum Working Group of the SPAW-Protocol. STENAPA participates in the MPA-Connect project which is a learning network of MPA managers and professionals in the Caribbean that works to increase the effectiveness of MPA management. The Netherlands hosted the GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee Meeting in 2020 on Bonaire in collaboration with DCNA.

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

> • The Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database ([www.dcbd.nl](http://www.dcbd.nl)) aims to store all data, if publicly available, about the wetlands like articles, scientific reports, maps etc. Over 1500 items were stored at the end of 2020, including information about wetlands.

- The DCNA website lists all protected areas on the six Dutch Caribbean Islands, which includes most of the Ramsar areas, but these are not highlighted separately.
- Many of the islands' NGOs and conservation organisations provide information through their websites.

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

Z=Not Applicable

### 18.6 Additional information

> The only boundary might be between the Dutch and French part of St. Maarten, though no transboundary wetland has been designated here.

### 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

Y=Not Relevant

### 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

> The Kingdom of the Netherlands is a range state for many Caribbean species. It is noted through its focal point for the Caribbean Netherlands based on the island of Bonaire:

• The Netherlands is a partner in the UNEP Regional Seas Program for the Caribbean, and its legal instrument, the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention), in particular its Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA Protocol). It has been actively involved in the development of a Marine Mammal Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean, adopted by the Parties to the SPA Protocol in 2009. In September 2015, the Dutch State Secretary of Economic Affairs declared the Yarari Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary around the islands of Bonaire and Saba, and as of September 2018, also St. Eustatius. It is intended to eventually also include the other, neighboring, Dutch Caribbean islands: Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten. This sanctuary will form part of a network of marine mammal sanctuaries in the region, including the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (USA), the Agoa Sanctuary (French Caribbean) and the Dominican Republic Marine Mammal Sanctuary, which includes the Silver Banks.

• Noting the scarcity of CMS Parties in the Caribbean region, the Netherlands is actively engaging with the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) which is uniting and supporting various initiatives for the conservation of migratory birds in the Americas such as the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds as well as initiatives for the conservation of other migratory species such as sea turtles, bats, and marine mammals.

• The Netherlands actively participates in the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) and hosted the IAC's 5th Conference of Parties on Bonaire;

• The Netherlands engages with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI); and

• The Netherlands participates in the Ramsar Wetlands Caribbean Initiative.

## 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 extent to which wetland conservation and wise-use issues are part of formal education programs differs between the different islands:

- The parks and conservation organizations of the Dutch Caribbean have developed nature education materials for youth in different age-classes (see weblink).
- The management organization for the Ramsar Sites on Bonaire has a general nature education program and awareness activities which includes information on the Ramsar sites and other wetlands.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

DCNA - The parks and conservation organizations of the Dutch Caribbean have developed nature education materials for youth in different age-classes

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

E=Exact number (opportunities)

> 0

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

G=More than (Opportunities)

19.3 Additional information

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

> A complete overview is not available but workshops and trainings are regularly provided, like:

A shark research training for marine conservation practitioners from St. Eustatius and Aruba provided by the St. Maarten Nature Foundation (see weblink).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Shark Research Training St. Maarten

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

