

# 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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[21-2- brief 21036801 Remmelts official submission Ramsar COP 1.pdf](#)

### Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority

> Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

> Drs. D.L.M. (Donné) Slangen, Director of the Department Nature and Biodiversity, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

Mailing address

> P.O. Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague, the Netherlands

Telephone/Fax

> +31 - (0)70 3798822

Email

> secretariaatNVLG@minezk.nl

### Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title

> W.J. Remmelts, Senior Policy Officer

Mailing address

> P.O. Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague, the Netherlands

Telephone/Fax

> + 31 - (0) 6 38825338

Email

> w.j.remmelts@minlnv.nl

### 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

Name of organisation

> P.O. Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague, the Netherlands

**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)

> The national policy (“national waterplan”, “nationale omgevingsvisie”, “rijksnatuurvisie”, “natuurambitie grote wateren” and “Agenda voor het Waddengebied 2050”) describes the ambition for the development of nature in and along surface waters in the Netherlands. In this area various realisation programs have been/will be launched (river basin management plans/WFD, floodprotection/Hoogwaterbeschermingsprogramma, fresh water supplies Deltaplan Freshwater, nature managementplan/Natura2000-NatuurNetwerkNederland, Programmatic Approach Main Water System 2018-2050, program Integrated Rivermanagement 2019-2050). These realisation programs combine the ambitions for nature with the ambitions for waterquality, watersafety en freshwatersupply (e.g. strengthening of dykes with natural solutions). To accomplish this, cooperation between the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Forestry Commission, water authorities, provinces and NGO’s is essential. In general all parties work positively on the realisation of ‘robust nature’. A remarkable project concerns the development of the 10.000 ha archipelago of the Marker Wadden in the Markermeer Ramsar site, one of the largest nature restoration projects in Western Europe. The first created islands already gave a boost to the biodiversity of the site, especially for birds. (see weblink).

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

[Herstel van de natuur op Marker Wadden](#) - Nature restoration at the Marker Wadden (lake Markermeer)

2)

> In the national Room for the River program (2006-2019) measures have been taken at 34 locations in the Netherlands to improve the floodprotection, environmental quality and quality of life in the major rivers. This program improved the biodiversity in the Dutch river area. Wetland monitoring programmes confirmed the positive response of a number of wetland species, among which iconic ones like White-tailed Sea Eagle, Osprey, Great Egret, Beaver and Otter. Similar projects continue to be implemented like in the delta of the IJssel river.

3)

> The Haringvliet dam and its sluices are one of the Delta Works. It was finished in 1970 and is therefor 50 years old. The complex acted as a barrier for migratory fish since. The so-called kier-besluit was agreed, which aims to (slightly) open the sluices allowing to (slightly) restore the estuary conditions of this Ramsar site. In January 2019 the Haringvliet sluices were finally opened. First monitoring results reveal that millions of fish have past the complex since then (see weblink).

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

[Millions of migratory fish passed the Haringvliet sluices](#)

4)

> The Program towards a Rich Wadden Sea (Naar een rijke Waddenzee) started in 2010. In this program residents, users, non-governmental organizations and governments are working on nature improvement, a resilient ecosystem and sustainable economic use of the Wadden Sea. The 3rd phase of the program started on 1 March 2019. Among the recent results are the return of seagrass beds and the increase of mussel beds. Both can be considered biodiversity hotspots of the Wadden sea ecosystem.

5)

> All wetland managers work hard to achieve the Natura 2000 goals for birds, habitat types and habitat species under the EU Birds- and Habitat Directives. This is supported by the implementation of measures under the European Water Framework Directive aimed to improve the water quality. Measures under these EU Directives will also benefit the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, as all Ramsar sites are also designated as Natura 2000-site (with equal boundaries).

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

1)

> Severe periods of drought: For centuries, the Dutch have taken measures to prevent flooding. It brought economic prosperity but also loss of water-dependent ecological potential (drought, shortage of water). Recent years, the Netherlands increasingly has to deal with drought, especially during the extremely hot and dry summers of past triennium: 2018, 2019 and 2020. Climate change will result in more serious shortage of water, especially in summers. And therefore cause more problems with shipping, agriculture, subsidence and

the desiccation of nature. Small pools, ponds and streams dry up creating problems for the aquatic biodiversity. Measures that are consistent with recent changes in policy are needed urgently to retain and store water much longer.

2)

> Lowered ambitions to improve environmental conditions: Since the late 1970s, the Netherlands has been working steadily to improve its environmental conditions. Over the past 10 to 15 years, however, the Netherlands has adjusted its strategy and lowered its ambitions for improved environmental conditions in a number of areas. One of the consequences of this is that the improvement has stagnated in recent years. The environmental pressure on the nature areas is therefore still too high. For example, about three quarters of the total area of land nature is currently struggling with excessive nitrogen deposition. According to the assessment of 2018 (measurement years 2015-2017), only approximately 50 percent of the waters reported for the EU Water Framework Directive, meets the standard for nitrogen while also only approximately 50 percent meets the standard for phosphorus (source: Van Hinsberg et al., 2020. Referentiescenario's natuur; Tussenrapportage Natuurverkenning 2050).

3)

> Management of invasive species: new water connections and international transport and trade cause the introduction of new species in the Netherlands. The Danube-Rhine canal for instance connected the Danube and Rhine flora and fauna. Nowadays, alien species outnumber the native species in the large Dutch rivers. Infamous are for instance exotic crayfish species that have locally become a plague and negatively impact the aquatic environment. For most exotic species it is not clear yet to what extent alien species are invasive and replace native ones. Climate change is one of the factors which enable foreign species to settle in the Netherlands.

4)

> Governance complexities: The implementation of nature policy in the main waters comes with institutional complexities. Various administrative layers and agencies are involved, each of which has defined its own boundary of the problem, developed its own solution strategies and is bound by its own sectoral frameworks and procedures. This leads to bottlenecks and ambiguities in current legal and administrative frameworks (Boonstra and Pleijte, 2017. Quickscan knelpunten in bestuurlijke en wettelijke afspraken natuur in de grote wateren).

The LIFE IP Deltanatuur (see weblink) however takes up the challenge to improve governance related to wet nature development and the implementation and realization of N2000. The overall objective of this Integrated Project (IP) is to develop and implement an integrated governance approach that improves coordination of interests in wet Natura 2000 sites (most of which are Ramsar sites). This includes combining nature conservation with other activities and functions, such as flood protection and economy, thereby removing important obstacles for the achievement of Natura 2000 improvement and restoration objectives.

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

[LIFE IP Delta Nature](#)

5)

> Funding: Water management projects can have a lengthy lead time due to (legal) stakeholder processes and can be very costly which may slow down implementation progress.

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

1)

> Climate change adaptation and mitigation: Nederland literally means 'low country', which illustrates that the Netherlands, including its natural areas, are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Dealing with sea level rise, shifts and changes in the discharges of river systems, subsidence, drought, salinisation and guaranteeing adequate freshwater supply is a matter of national survival. The Dutch are well-known for their 'fight against the water' but increasingly they recognise that they have to 'build with nature' to be able to combat the impacts of climate change. Building with nature is a design approach that takes the ecosystem as a starting point and makes use of natural processes for the sustainable management of coastal, delta and riverine regions. A consortium has been formed in which government, knowledge institutions, NGOs and private enterprises are building a network of expertise to pool and expand knowledge on how the concept of Building with Nature can be developed and implemented in projects. The Programmatic Approach Main Water System builds upon this concept. By 2050 the Main Water System must be future-proof, contain high-quality nature and will also offer scope for economic use and development. (see weblink). Most of these 'main waters' are also designated as Ramsar sites (except for the North Sea and big Rivers).

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

[Programmatiese Aanpak Grote Wateren \(PAGW\)](#) - Programmatic Approach Main Water System

2)

> Program Integrated Rivermanagement. By 2050 the large rivers (part of the Main Water System) are developed into areas with high environmental quality and sustainable management of water and nature.

3)

> In the coming years, there will be a major challenge to achieve the objectives for flood risk management, freshwater availability and spatial adaptation by 2050. This is stated in the revised Delta Program 2021. The Delta Program 2021 shows that the course that has been set is the right one, but that implementation must speed up. Successive years with periods of drought and heat and many downpours confirm this necessity.

4)

> The 32 km Afsluitdijk between the Wadden Sea and the IJsselmeer has protected large parts of the Netherlands against flooding from the sea since 1932. Circumstances have changed since then. Sea levels are rising, the land is sinking and the weather will be more turbulent in the future. In order to continue to protect the Netherlands from flooding in the future, the Afsluitdijk must become stronger. Rijkswaterstaat will strengthen the Afsluitdijk between 2018 and 2023 but will also implement the innovative fish migration river. This 4km long artificial river will restore the fish migration between the fresh water IJsselmeer and the marine Wadden Sea. This is aimed to allow millions of fish to swim upstream the large rivers of Europe.

5)

> Implementation of the Programme towards a Rich Wadden Sea (Programma naar een Rijke Waddenzee, PRW)

The Wadden Sea is designated as a Ramsar site, Natura 2000-site and Unesco World Heritage site and is by many considered as the most important wetland of the Netherlands. The region is on the verge of a number of major developments: climate change, energy transition, more sustainable economic activity (fishing, shipping, agriculture etc.), increasing tourism and the threats of population decline and deteriorating quality of life. The IUCN for instance pointed towards climate change being the biggest threat towards natural world heritage sites such as the Wadden Sea (see weblink). These complex issues and dynamics demand creativity, flexibility and ingenuity from the parties involved in order to find appropriate answers.

The PRW wants to challenge these parties to think beyond the usual solutions. The challenges ahead also offer opportunities for them to join forces and lead the way in the Wadden Sea region.

The target scenario of the previous PRW period resulted from the national government's Key Planning Decision for the Wadden Sea, also known as the Third Wadden Sea Policy Document (now: Wadden Sea Structure Vision). The target scenario for the period 2019-2022 has been updated and merged with the ambitions of the Wadden 2050 Area Agenda. As a result, there is now a single integral perspective for the Wadden Sea region for 2050. The PRW is committed to implementing as many parts of the perspective as possible during this programme period, so that they are completed by 2030.

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

[Climate change now top threat to natural World Heritage - IUCN report](#)

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

> No

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)

> Not particularly. There is already a good cooperation with Wetlands International and Birdlife International.

There is a close cooperation with the Dutch Birdlife partner Vogelbescherming Nederland, e.g. as a member of the National Ramsar Committee.

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)?

> Better linking of MEAs and increasing the efficiency can among others be achieved through making sure that:

- the different MEAs apply to equal delineated sites, meaning that the data collected per site are applicable to all other MEAs.
- The reporting and questionnaires from all MEAs should be better coordinated, meaning that the information provided to one MEA is also equally applicable to other MEAs. If possible, digital questionnaires should be merged and timing of national reports should be close to each other allowing the use of same data for all MEAs.

- Common grounds between the different MEA's should be found. Where can we strengthen each other and help to reach common goals. So not working in each others scope but working closely on the same goals within the own specialism.

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 Ramsar obligations are generally well integrated in national, regional and local policies and strategies, like the National Environmental Vision, National Water Plan, the River basin management plans (Water Framework Directive), the Deltaprogram (freshwatersupply, floodprotection), the National Nature Network (including Natura2000-sites), the trilateral Wadden Sea cooperation and the managementplans of the Water Boards (Waterschappen) that combine goals for water (quality and quantity) and biodiversity.

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.

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

> The Ramsar obligations are generally well integrated in policies and strategies (see G). The Ramsar sites in the Netherlands, are well protected sites, designated under Natura 2000 and part of the National Nature Network. The Ramsar sites are also protected areas in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The impact of all these measures on the condition of wetlands can generally however not be observed within a triennium or three years period. This requests long-term monitoring. The Netherlands currently concentrate on wetlands of international importance abroad, especially wetlands within the AEW flyway and Wetlands in the Dutch Caribbean. As the wetlands in the Netherlands and Caribbean are much different, the Netherlands chooses to report in two separate national reports. However the new digital reporting system does not allow for two separate national reports. The opportunity to report separately on overseas territories is hereby requested.

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

> This national report is a joint effort from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management (Rijkswaterstaat), supported by experts from the Wageningen University and Research Centre.

## Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

### Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

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

#### Target 1

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

[Reference to Aichi Target 2]

1.1 Have wetland conservation and the identification of wetlands benefits been integrated into sustainable approaches to the following national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.3.2} {1.3.3} KRA

1.3.i

*Please select only one per square.*

a) National Policy or strategy for wetland management	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
b) Poverty eradication strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input 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 type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
g) National policies or measures on agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant

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

### 1.1 Additional information

> To date some half a million Dutch are living in poverty according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. However, wetlands play no role in strategies to eradicate this poverty.

## Target 2

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

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

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

A=Yes

### 2.1 Additional Information

> The Netherlands, like all other EU Member States, has the obligation to implement the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). The WFD establishes a legal framework to protect and restore ecological functioning of surface water, maintain groundwater supplies with good water quality and create required water conditions for water-dependent community values to be protected across Europe and ensure its long-term, sustainable use. The directive establishes an innovative approach for water management based on river basins, the



natural geographical and hydrological units and sets specific deadlines for Member States to protect aquatic ecosystems. The directive addresses inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater.

Besides that, almost 9000 km<sup>2</sup> of the Netherlands is designated as a Ramsar site (n=43). These Ramsar sites are all designated as a EU Natura 2000 site and have a Natura 2000-management plan. Any bottlenecks in water quantity and quality are part of the Natura2000-management plan and the relevant River basin management plan.

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

A=Yes

### 2.2 Additional Information

> The Netherlands put lots of efforts in the decline and mitigation of environmentally harmful substances. Long-term monitoring is carried out to assess the impact of this policy. Environmental conditions in the Netherlands have improved substantially since the 1990s. Acidifying deposition has decreased by 49% since the reference year 1990 (mainly due to a reduction in emissions of sulfur dioxide) and eutrophication of surface waters has also decreased substantially. Nevertheless, target values have still not been reached and the water quality of most waterbodies does not meet the requirements under the EU Water Framework Directive.

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

A=Yes

### 2.3 Additional Information

> National government has established a so-called displacement series (verdringingsreeks) which determines how scarce fresh water resources (like in case of the extreme summers of 2018, 2019) become allocated over water users, such as agriculture, nature, shipping and drinking water companies. The National Water Distribution Coordination Committee (LCW) which is part of the Water management center Netherlands advises the national government therein.

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

> The quantity and quality of water available to and required by wetlands, has for decades been an integral part of individual wetland management plans. Maximizing the ecological values is not always the main function. Management plans illustrate a balance between ecology and other functions.

The large area of the IJsselmeer Ramsar Site for instance plays a crucial role in the provision of fresh water in the Northern half of the Netherlands as well as it has a crucial water storage function for periods with peak river discharges. This is why this wetland is managed with (unnatural) high water levels during the summer months (to safeguard fresh water supply for dry periods) and an (unnatural) low winter level to safeguard storage capacity during peak water events. This however limits the conservation of critical habitats for birds and fish, for example breeding island, reed marshes, riparian shallows and flooded grasslands. The aim is to address this in creating simulated floodlands behind dykes ('achteroevers'), which are connected to the main lake.

The ecological conditions of most (protected) wetlands depends on the water quality of external sources, like rivers. This is still a concern. Though (inter)national environmental measures have substantially improved the river water quality, especially for nutrients (see weblink), the quality does still not meet the required EU Water Framework Directive standards (see weblink).

Nevertheless has the ecological condition of wetlands generally improved. The 1990 Nature Policy Plan introduced the National Nature Network which is still the backbone of nature policy in The Netherlands and which is planned to be ready in terms of size in 2027. The network includes nature conservation areas (like all Ramsar sites), nature development areas and ecological corridors. To date a wide range of smaller and larger wetland development projects have and will be emerged as part of larger programs known as e.g. 'Building with nature', 'Room for the River (2007-2017)', 'Integrated Rivermanagement (2019-2050)' and the Programmatic Approach Main Water System (2018-2050). These programs not only result in restoration of ecosystem services but often also demonstrate the comeback and population increase of migratory fish and iconic wetland species like Beaver, Otter, White-tailed Sea Eagle, Osprey, Common Crane and many others.

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

[Indicator about the Dutch waterquality.](#)

[Indicator about the nutrification of Dutch large rivers](#)

2.5 Percentage of households linked to sewage system?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

> 99.6

2.5 Additional Information

> All municipalities and more than 99.6% of all households in the Netherlands are linked to the sewage system. Less than 29.000 households living at more or less remote isolated locations are not connected (equivalent to 65.000 people or 0.4%; source Stichting RioNed Riool in Cijfers 2009 - 2010). These households all have an individual sewage treatment system, like a septic tank.

Professional shipping as well as pleasure boats are forbidden to discharge untreated toilet water into the surface water.

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

E=Exact number (percentage)

> 100%

2.6 Additional Information

> 100% as all sewage water is treated.

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

E=Exact number (percentage)

> <0.4

2.7 Additional Information

> Not exactly clear but less than 0.4% (source Stichting RioNed, Riool in Cijfers 2009 - 2010).

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

Y=Not Relevant

2.8 Additional Information

> Helophyte filters are occasionally used to treat (pre-treated) sewage water before drain off in surface waters.

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

E=Exact number (plants)

> 353

2.10 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants? If relevant to your country

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

A=Good

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

Y=Not Relevant

2.12 Additional Information

> The exact number of wastewater reuse systems is not clear, neither is the volume re-used. However, wastewater re-use is already taking place indirectly as effluent from waste water treatment plants (WWTP) once discharged onto the surface water, will be taken in again for different purposes, like irrigation or drinking water production.

Waste water re-use is an important topic in the Netherlands, especially after the extreme hot and dry

summers between 2018-2020. The report 'Stip op de horizon, Circulair Water 2050' (Dot on the horizon; Circular Water 2050 from KWR Water Cycle Institute et al., November 2020) concretizes the possible circular water cycle in 2050.

Currently several pilot studies (also in cooperation with Belgium) are underway to be scaled up to the national level, like:

1. reuse of WWTP effluent for irrigation (Haaksbergen, Netherlands);
2. reuse of effluent from industry for irrigation (Dinteloord, Netherlands);
3. reuse of effluent from industry for irrigation (Lieshout, Netherlands);
4. reuse of WWTP effluent for industry (Terneuzen, Netherlands);
5. reuse of WWTP effluent for industry (Wevershoof, Netherlands);
6. reuse of WWTP effluent for groundwater replenishment and drinking water production (Torreele, Belgium).

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

X=Unknown

### 2.13 Additional Information

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

> The foreseen fundamental change in waste water management in coming years will affect the whole country (agriculture, landscape, industrial and drinking). It is an elaboration of the policy program by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management to realize a circular economy by 2050 (see file attached).

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Circulair\\_Netherlands\\_in\\_2050.pdf](#) - Report about the Netherlands becoming a circular economy in 2050

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

A=Yes

2.14 Additional information: If Yes, please provide an example

> Water companies are important partners in the realization of nature. The sector manages about 23,000 hectares (of which some 14.000 ha in the dunes), making it the 4th nature manager in the Netherlands. In a natural environment sources of drinking water are better protected against contamination and less cleaning effort is required to make drinking water.

## Target 3

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

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

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

KRA 1.10.i

A=Yes

### 3.1 Additional Information

> The Ramsar wise use principles and guidance as such are probably not actively applied. However, they are an integral part of the policy concerning the use of wetlands and are translated into instruments like Codes of Conduct and Environmental Impact Assments.

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

> Many activities have been undertaken, like:

- The Dutch Angler Organisation (Sportvisserij Nederland) aims for a good ecological condition of surface waters and improvement of fish migration. The sector develops fish stock and fisheries management plans. Among others they are partner in a green deal to prevent the use of lead (see weblink). Together with conservation partners they launched an action plan for the conservation of the European sturgeon in October 2020.
- Worth mentioning are also the codes of conduct that are developed by the sector, like: Code of conduct for drone pilots in the Wadden Sea Region (July 2019) or the Code of conduct for recreation in the IJsselmeergebied (July 2020).
- The website <https://naturalcapital.futureproof.community/best-practices> provides some more inspiring best practices about the private sector and nature.

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

[Natural Capital Cummunity - The matchmaking platform for sustainable entrepreneurs](#)

[Green Deal sport fishing lead free](#)

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

A=Yes

### 3.3 Additional information

> The Netherlands gives a high priority to greening of the EU common policies on agriculture and fisheries (CAP and CFP). This will eliminate, phase out or reform perverse incentive measures harmful to biodiversity, while positive incentives are developed and applied. Among others the Dutch government invests millions to buy out fishermen and farmers and to make these sectors more sustainable.

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

A=Yes

### 3.4 Additional Information

> Progress so far has been limited. The greening of the CAP in the Netherlands is an example. Other positive developments are greener taxation and tax incentives for sustainable livestock housing systems. However important incentives harmful to biodiversity, such as the low rate of VAT on milk, meat and kerosene, have not been phased out or reformed.

## Target 4

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

{Reference to Aichi Target 9}

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

A=Yes

### 4.1 Additional information

> Invasive alien species can easily migrate across borders. This is why the EU has adopted a law - the IAS Regulation(2) - to tackle the problem in a coordinated, joint effort across all Member States. At the core of the IAS Regulation is a list of invasive alien species of Union concern (the Union list. The latest update of the union list entered into force in August 2019. The IAS Regulation imposes restrictions on the keeping, importing, selling, breeding and growing of the listed species. Member States are also required to take measures for their early detection and rapid eradication, and to manage populations that are already widely spread in their territory. Prevention is the priority because established populations can be expensive to manage and difficult or impossible to eradicate.

The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality requested The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) to advise on the Dutch approach per Union listed species. This advice has been laid down in the document Substantiation strategy Union list species (Onderbouwing strategie

Unielijstsoorten; September 2016). The NVWA also advised the ministry of species that might be added to the Union list, among which wetland species. The risk of (new) alien species to become invasive is assessed and reported by the Team Invasive Alien Species (TIE) and species experts. The complete list (after the second update) can be found at <https://www.nvwa.nl/onderwerpen/invasieve-exoten/unielijst-invasieve-exoten>. Specifically for the Wadden Sea, there is an inventory of invasive species; <https://www.nvwa.nl/documenten/dier/dieren-in-de-natuur/exoten/risicobeoordelingen/native-and-non-native-species-of-the-dutch-wadden-sea-2018>

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

A=Yes

#### 4.2 Additional information

> Yes, wetlands are part of the policies and guidelines on invasive alien species as elaborated under 4.1

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

A=Yes

#### 4.3 Additional Information

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

> The policy document Substantiation strategy Union list species (Onderbouwing strategie Unielijstsoorten; September 2016) describes the management actions (if any) per Union-list species that has been observed in the Netherlands. The Union list does not cover all harmful exotic species within the EU, as species will only be listed after a risk assessment based on EU criteria. The fourth edition of the Netherlands field guide on invasive aquatic plants lists for instance 22 species with management recommendations (see weblink), while they're not all listed on the Union list.

Some Union list species do exist in the Netherlands, but are not managed (yet) as present climatic conditions prevent reproduction like Water hyacinth (Waterhyacint; *Eichhornia crassipes*) and the fresh water turtles Red-eared slider (Roodwangschildpad; *Trachemys scripta elegans*), Yellow-bellied slider (Geelbuikschildpad; *T. scripta scripta*) and Cumberland slider (Geelwangschildpad; *T. scripta troostii*).

In 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality send its first report to the EU concerning the distribution of the Union list species of the European invasive alien species regulation 1143/2014. The NVWA reported a.o. early 2019 that the union list species American bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) was successfully eradicated from the Netherlands.

Invasive species in the trilateral Wadden Sea are being monitored via detailed inventory (GiMaRIS). Currently, no specific concerns exist. There is a trilateral Wadden Sea Management and Action Plan for Alien Species (MAPAS) written in 2019. The three countries now work on implementing MAPAS.

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

[Field Guide Invasive Water Plants](#)

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

> • See the list of 22 exotic waterplants in the fourth edition of the field guide (see weblink under 4.3). Main challenges concern damage control, early signalling and elimination

• Of high risk are also the many exotic crayfish species, like Spiny-cheek crayfish (Gevlekte Amerikaanse rivierkreeft; *Orconectus limosus*), Virile crayfish (Geknobbelde Amerikaanse rivierkreeft; *O. virilis*), Signal crayfish (Californische rivierkreeft; *Pacifastacus leniusculus*), Red swamp crayfish (Rode Amerikaanse rivierkreeft; *Procambarus clarkii*) and Marbled crayfish (Marmerkreeft; *Procambarus fallax f. virginalis*). These species not only compete with the native European crayfish (which was almost extinct in the Netherlands), but also have a detrimental impact on the aquatic ecosystem. Commercial fisheries seems to be the only way to control the crayfish populations.

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

A=Yes

#### 4.5 Additional Information

> Surveillance of invasive alien species is one of the actions being carried out for most of these species, like through monitoring within the National Ecological Monitoring Network.

## 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

B=No

#### 5.1 Additional information

> All wetlands of international importance in the Netherlands, among which 43 Ramsar sites (covering some 9000 km<sup>2</sup>), have been designated as Natura 2000-sites under the EU Bird and Habitat Directives. Naming and delineation of the Ramsar sites is exactly the same as for Natura 2000 (except for the site 'Zoommeer' which is slightly larger as a Ramsar site if compared to the Natura 2000 designation).

Present strategy and priority lies on the identification and designation of Ramsar sites in the Dutch Caribbean. This is reported in a separate report for the Dutch Caribbean.

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

B=No

#### 5.2 Additional information

> No further identification of potential Ramsar sites has been carried out in The Netherlands. All wetlands of international importance have already been designated as EU Natura 2000 sites. All Ramsar sites to date are also Natura 2000-site. The delineation naming of these existing sites has been adapted to the Natura 2000 delineation and naming, as was reported in the latest national report.

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

E=Exact number (sites)

> 43

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)

> 43

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

Y=Not Relevant

#### 5.3 - 5.5 Additional information

> All 43 Ramsar sites have a management plan which is being implemented. Its Natura 2000 designation requests a revision of management plans aimed at achieving specific Natura 2000-goals. For some of these management plans the revision process may still be ongoing.

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

A=Yes

#### 5.6 Additional information

> All Ramsar sites are also designated as EU Natura 2000-sites. A Natura 2000-management plan has a validity of six years. During these six years, the effects of the measures on the realization of conservation goals are monitored. By the end of this period, the management plan will be evaluated by the competent authority and it will be evaluated whether the conservation goals have been achieved. Depending on the outcome of the evaluation, the validity of the management plan may be extended for another six years or a new management plan with new measures will be drawn up.

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)

## 5.7 Additional information

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

> Sites do not have a cross-sectoral management committee as such, but stakeholder participation is an important aspect in the whole management planning process. When drafting the management plan, consultations are held with land owners, province(s), municipalities, water boards, organizations in agriculture, nature and recreation and other stakeholders. The General Administrative Law Act (Algemene wet Bestuursrecht) obliges a consultation procedure on the draft management plan. Each Ramsar (or Natura 2000) site has a communication plan which focusses on key messages per stakeholder group. Additionally, cross-sectoral contact takes place in regards to protecting the wetlands. This resulted for the Wadden Sea into the Agenda for the Wadden Area 2050 describing upcoming strategies for preserving the area. The agenda has been developed in cooperation with various governmental levels as well as stakeholders.

### Target 7

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 5, 7, 11, 12]

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

A=Yes

#### 7.1 Additional information

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

> Monitoring does not only concern habitats and species but also likely (human-induced) causes of changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites. Monitoring data are analysed and reported by scientific bodies like the Wageningen University and Research Centre (Wageningen UR), University of Groningen (RUG), The Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ), the Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology (SOVON) and others.

7.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i

A=Yes

#### 7.2 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made

> 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):

Any changes are reported through the Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS). Although some RIS need to be updated, there is currently no major negative human-induced change to be reported.

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

> Sites in Germany (Otsfriesisches Wattenmeer & Dollart) and Belgium (Schorren van de Beneden Schelde), which border with sites in the Netherlands are listed on the Montreux Record. However, none of the sites in the Netherlands, nor any of the Dutch overseas sites in the Carriibbean 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

A=Yes

### 8.1 Additional information

> All Ramsar sites in the Netherlands are also designated as Natura 2000 sites (overlap 1:1). Information per site is available at <https://www.natura2000.nl/gebieden>.

In addition to that an inventory on IBAs in the Netherlands was carried out in 2019 (source <https://www.sovon.nl/sites/default/files/doc/important-bird-areas-in-the-netherlands-2019-gecorrigeerd.pdf>).

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

Y=Not Relevant

### 8.2 Additional information

> All wetlands of (inter)national importance have already been designated as a Ramsar site and/or a EU Natura 2000-site before last decade. All ecological characteristics, descriptions and data are updated, as described in the former national report. All data are available through the Ramsar and Natura 2000 databases.

The information on designation and update of the Caribbean sites is in progress and will be communicated in a separate report for the Caribbean.

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

A=Yes

### 8.3 Additional information

> In the Netherlands vast amounts of data on the whereabouts of species over the last century, also in wetlands, have been gathered and stored. The Network Ecological Monitoring, under supervision of Netherlands Statistics provides trend information for all bird species and other wetland species since 1999. These data are collected, maintained and analysed by ten specialised private data managing organisations (PGOs), like SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology. SOVON maintains the data on water birds in all Ramsar sites and can reports on status and trends. SOVON data (and data from other PGOs) are used to update the Ramsar Information Sheets and many opportunistic data are made publicly available through the National Database Flora and Fauna (NDFF) Its main components are: data entry portal(s), a central archive, validation service and data export portal(s). The NDFF currently stores over 150 million data.

Specifically for the Wadden Sea area data is managed via the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme; <https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/trilateral-monitoring-and-assessment-programme-tmap>

### 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 National Database Flora and Fauna (NDFF) a.o. is accessible to all stakeholders. Trend information is accessible through: [www.clo.nl](http://www.clo.nl)

### 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 figure (see page 32 of the 6th Nature Progress Report of the Netherlands) shows the many nature projects that are (being) implemented as part of the Programmatic Approach Large Waters (<https://www.helpdeskwater.nl/onderwerpen/water-ruimte/ecologie/programmatische-aanpak-grote-wateren-pagw/>), most of which are Ramsar sites. These actions are a boost to wetland biodiversity.

Illustrative is the increase of iconic wetland species numbers like White-tailed Sea Eagles, Ospreys and Common cranes. Wetland species like Otter, Beaver, Common seal, Grey seal and Harbor porpoise which were on the National red list since 2006, were removed from the updated Red list in 2020.

Despite the improvement in environmental conditions there are still many challenges: The severe hot and dry



summers of 2018, 2019 and 2020 has led to the drying up of pools and streams in some parts of the Netherlands; The water quality of most waterbodies does still not meet the requirements under the EU Water Framework Directive; Reports like the 2018 Quality Status Report of the Waddensea (<https://qsr.waddensea-worldheritage.org/>) and the 2019 Natura 2000 reports (<https://www.natura2000.nl/sites/default/files/Nieuws/WOt-brochure%20Vogel-%20en%20Habitatrichtlijnrapportage%202019.PDF>), show that many habitats and species are still having an unfavorable conservation status.

Overall, it can be argued that there was no change in the condition of wetlands in the Netherlands during past triennium.

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

[Bird and Habitat Directive Report 2019 \(in Dutch\)](#)

[Wadden Sea Quality Status Report](#)

[Sixth Nature Progress Report - Nature in the Netherlands - State of affairs at the end of 2019 and developments in 2020](#)

[Programmatic Approach Main Water System](#)

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

G=More than (km<sup>2</sup>)

> 8993

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

> 6021

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

> 2972

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

> 0

#### 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 figure of 8993 Km<sup>2</sup> concerns the total area of all 43 Ramsar sites in the Netherlands, which covers the major wetlands. The figure excludes any other wetland areas in the Netherlands, as well as the Ramsar sites in the Dutch Caribbean (which are documented in a separate national report for the Caribbean).

The subdivision of the total Ramsar site area into individual wetland types is not possible as this has not been documented for most sites. Therefore only the total area is provided here for marine/coast and inland.

There are only six marine/coastal wetland areas but they measure 6021 km<sup>2</sup>. The 37 inland sites measure 2972 km<sup>2</sup> in total, 147 km<sup>2</sup> of which (7 sites) are coastal dune areas.

Some large wetlands, both fresh water and marine, have been dammed from the sea (for water safety reasons), many decades ago. Although these and other sites have man-made aspects, they have been regarded here as inland.

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

> No needs

### 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

> No specific Wetland Policy, but wise use is an integral part of nature policy in the Netherlands. This is a.o.

translated into wetland management plans, fishery policy, tourism policy, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and codes of conduct, like for waterrecreation in the Ramsarsites of the IJsselmeergebied (<https://assets.vogelbescherming.nl/docs/bd8fd199-0639-4c9b-aa8d-f76b730fae5a.pdf>).

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

[Code of Conduct Recreation at Lake IJsselmeer](#)

9.2 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?

{1.3.5}{1.3.6}

B=No

9.3 Are wetlands treated as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {1.7.1} {1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii

A=Yes

9.3 Additional information

> The Netherlands lies in the delta of four major rivers: the Rhine, Meuse, Scheldt and Ems.

The Netherlands participates in international commissions on the management of these river basins: Rhine (<https://www.iksr.org/>), Meuse (<http://www.meuse-maas.be/Accueil.aspx>), Scheldt (<http://www.isc-cie.org/>) and Ems (<http://www.ems-eems.de/>).

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

[International Commission for the protection of the Ems](#)

[International Commission for the protection of the Scheldt](#)

[International Commission for the protection of the Meuse](#)

[International Commission for the protection of the Rhine](#)

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

> For detailed information see the Helpdesk Water of the national government:

<https://www.helpdeskwater.nl/onderwerpen/wetgeving-beleid/internationaal/>.

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

[International consultation on water policy](#)

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

A=Yes

9.5 Additional information

> The Netherlands have adopted a proactive approach to develop its extensive coastal and river works called 'building with nature'. The idea is to make use of the dynamics of the natural environment and provide opportunities for natural processes. The goal of the Dutch Room for the River Program for instance is to achieve a safer and more attractive river landscape. Rivers are given more room at multiple locations to be able to manage higher (climate change induced) water levels. The measures are designed in such a way that they improve the quality of the immediate surroundings. The first works of the program started in 2006 and the last work was completed in March 2019. For more information see

<https://www.rijkswaterstaat.nl/water/waterbeheer/bescherming-tegen-het-water/maatregelen-om-overstromingen-te-voorkomen/ruimte-voor-de-rivieren/index.aspx>

Similar building with nature philosophy is now also part of multiple projects that are finalized, ongoing or planned within the Programmatic Approach Main Water System

(see file:///C:/Users/Henke005/Downloads/def\_180318-01\_kaart\_ecologische\_waterkwaliteit\_4\_gebieden\_a3\_03.pdf)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Map.pdf](#) - Projects under the Programmatic Approach Main Water System

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

[Room for the rivers](#)

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

A=Yes

## 9.6 Additional information

> The role of wetlands in supporting viable farming systems mainly lies in the storage of water during wet periods and the delivery of fresh water for irrigation during dry periods. Mainly the larger fresh water wetlands/Ramsar sites have a role in this. The 22 water boards in the Netherlands are responsible for the management of surface waters. A national script decides about the delivery of fresh water during periods of water scarcity (<https://www.helpdeskwater.nl/onderwerpen/waterveiligheid/management/landelijk-draaiboek-0/>). This function however also creates unnatural water level fluctuations which puts pressure on the ecological values of wetlands.

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

National Scenario for Water Distribution and Drought

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

Please select only one per square.

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

## 9.7 Additional information

> a. Dossier Agricultural Watermanagement: <https://www.wur.nl/nl/Dossiers/dossier/Agrarisch-waterbeheer.htm>

b. Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute <https://www.knmi.nl/home>

c. Wageningen University: <https://www.wur.nl/en/article/Valuation-of-ecosystem-services-as-basis-for-the-new-CAP.htm> or <https://www.atlasnatuurlijkkapitaal.nl/en>

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

Atlas Natural Capital

Valuation of ecosystem services as basis for the new CAP

Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute

Delta Plan for Agricultural Water Management

## 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

> Small wetlands like pools, ditches and small streams are so-called landscape elements for which subsidies are available to construct or maintain them (<https://www.bij12.nl/onderwerpen/natuur-en-landschap/index-natuur-en-landschap/>).

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

Index Nature en Landscape (in Dutch)

## 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

### 10.1 Additional information

If yes please indicate the case studies or projects documenting information and experiences concerning culture and wetlands

> Not relevant

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

### 10.2 Additional information

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

> Not relevant

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

A=Yes

### 11.1 Additional information

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

> One of the actions of the Natural Capital Agenda (<https://www.atlasnatuurlijkkapitaal.nl/en>) is the development of the digital Atlas of Natural Capital (ANK) in the Netherlands. The Atlas of Natural Capital is an initiative of the former Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment and was produced in association with research institutes Deltares, Wageningen Environmental Research, Wageningen Economic Research and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). The Atlas provides information and tools to help map our natural capital, use it sustainably and find appropriate solutions, especially for the long term. The Atlas contains information about natural capital, ecosystem services and related concepts, and inspirational examples. The maps include information that can be used when taking decisions that affect the human environment at site level. Companies can use the information to make their operations more sustainable and in their corporate social responsibility reporting. The ecosystem services and stocks are defined in accordance with the European Union's CICES classification (Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services), which was developed to provide an internationally harmonised nomenclature. It enables ecosystem services to be mapped Europe-wide and is thus also a step towards implementation of the

European Biodiversity Strategy. The Atlas is a work in progress.

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

#### Atlas Natural Capital

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

Y=Not Relevant

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

A=Yes

#### 11.3 Additional information

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

> This is part of the Natura 2000-managementplans (all Ramsar sites are also Natura 2000-site).

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19)? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii

A=Yes

#### 11.4 Additional information

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

> This is part of the Natura 2000-managementplans (all Ramsar sites are also Natura 2000-site).

### **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

> Priority is given to the larger wetlands which provide valuable ecosystem services in terms of ecosystem services like coastal protection, fresh water storage and stocking, fisheries, recreation, tourism etc.

The Netherlands need to protect itself against climate change induced sea level rise and increasing river discharges. Approaches like 'Building with nature' aim to restore natural processes that allow wetlands to 'grow' with rising sea levels. Programs like 'Room for the river' (finalised in 2019) aimed to restore the water storage function of river basins, meanwhile creating an attractive landscape for recreation and tourism.

Currently priority is given to multiple projects in the Programmatic Approach Large Waters aimed to restore nature and ecosystem services across the Netherlands

(see file:///C:/Users/Henke005/Downloads/def\_180318-01\_kaart\_ecologische\_waterkwaliteit\_4\_gebieden\_a3\_03.pdf.

Besides these priority issues, all wetlands have a management plan which includes priority management or restoration measures aimed to achieve the sites nature targets.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Map.pdf - Projects under the Programmatic Approach Main Water System

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

> Websites like Room for the river (<https://www.rijkswaterstaat.nl/water/waterbeheer/bescherming-tegen-het-water/maatregelen-om-overstromingen-te-voorkomen/ruimte-voor-de-rivieren/index.aspx>), the Sand Motor (<https://dezandmotor.nl/en/>), the Marker Wadden (<https://www.natuurmonumenten.nl/projecten/markers-wadden/nieuws>) and the Haringvliet (<https://www.natuurmonumenten.nl/bezoekerscentrum-tiengemetten/projecten/droomfonds-haringvliet>) show the implementation of these restoration/rehabilitation projects. News items on these websites illustrate the sometimes spectacular results like high numbers of breeding or migratory birds.

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

Haringvliet

Marker Wadden

The Sand Motor

Room for the rivers

### 12.3 Have the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands and on Peatlands, climate change and wise use (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.11) been implemented including?

Please select only one per square.

a) Knowledge of global resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Education and public awareness on peatlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) Policy and legislative instruments	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
d) Wise use of peatlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
e) Research networks, regional centres of expertise, and institutional capacity	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
f) International cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
g) Implementation and support	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

### 12.3 Additional Information

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

> a. Among others national government and the peat sector carried out a Green Deal Peat Replacement aimed to prevent the import of peat and conserve peat areas abroad (see summary 2018:

<https://www.greendeals.nl/sites/default/files/downloads/GD068-samenvatting-Veenvervanging.pdf>). Also the government of the Netherlands supports the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) in accelerating market transformation towards sustainable supply chains. An important step herein was the signing by several EU Member States of the Amsterdam Declaration, committing them to sustainable sourcing of 'deforestation commodities' like palm oil which is often grown on tropical peat soils (<https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/uploaded/2016/06/declaration-palm-oil-amsterdam.pdf>).

b. Several education and public awareness initiatives are ongoing. One of the most recent concerns the publication of the report 'Stop bodemdaling in veenweidegebieden' (Stop soil drop in peat meadow areas) from the Council for the Living Environment and Infrastructure (Rli) a strategic advisory board for government and parliament on the

broad domain of sustainable development of the living environment and infrastructure ([https://www.rli.nl/sites/default/files/advies\\_stop\\_bodemdaling\\_in\\_veenweidegebieden\\_-\\_def.pdf](https://www.rli.nl/sites/default/files/advies_stop_bodemdaling_in_veenweidegebieden_-_def.pdf)).

c. The national Climat Agreement (June 2019) includes agreements on a climate-oriented approach to peat meadow areas. In October 2020 100 million was made available aimed to halt the degradation of these peat soils <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/10/19/100-miljoen-beschikbaar-voor-veenweide-aanpak>

d. All natural peatland areas in the Netherlands are designated as Ramsar sites and/or EU Natura 2000-sites and are actively managed. Some 11.000 hectares in total are designated as the habitat type Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration.

The Netherlands also have some 230.000 ha of agricultural peat meadow areas, which are degraded due to centuries long drainage and mineralization of the peat. Central government and the provinces will work with agricultural and nature organizations, the water boards and municipalities to tackle this problem. On 19 October 2020 the Ministry of LNV has made 100 million euros available for this under the national Climate Agreement.

e. Cooperation between universities and practitioners, like <http://www.innovatieprogrammaveen.nl/> or <https://www.veenweiden.nl/>.

f. See a.

g. See d and e.

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

[Peat Innovation Program \(in Dutch\)](#)

[Stop soil drop in peat meadow areas \(in Dutch\)](#) - Advice by the council for the Environment and Infrastructure (RLI)

[100 million available for peat meadow approach \(in Dutch\)](#)

[Peat Meadows \(in Dutch\)](#)

[Green Deal Veenvervanging \(in Dutch\)](#)

[The Amsterdam Declaration in Support of a Fully Sustainable Palm Oil Supply Chain by 2020](#)

## Target 13

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 6 and 7]

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

A=Yes

### 13.1 Additional information

> An environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) provides the information needed to allow full consideration of environmental interests likely to have significant environmental impact. The EIA report shows how proposals will affect the environment and whether other alternatives would achieve the goals in a more sustainable way. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) focuses on consideration of environmental consequences in plans and programmes, with specific emphasis on the environment in the strategic phase.

The Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) prepares mandatory and voluntary advisory reports for government (national, provincial and local) on the scope and quality of environmental assessments (EA). In addition to EIA and SEA the Netherlands also distinguish two procedures in the Dutch Environmental Act:

- EIA for (relatively) simple permit procedure: the simplified procedure.
- EIA for complex decisions and SEA for plans and programmes: the full procedure.

Note that 'simplified' does not necessarily mean 'easy'. For EIA the type of permit determines whether the simplified or the full procedure applies. For example a permit procedure for a nuclear power plant will be classed as a simplified procedure. The permit itself is far from 'simple', but the simplified procedure suffices.

EIA for complex decisions, all projects that require an appropriate assessment on the basis of the Dutch Nature Conservation Act and all projects in which a government body is proponent (e.g. expansion airport, projects concerning infrastructure, housing programmes) the full procedure is required.

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

{1.3.4} {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii

A=Yes

### 13.2 Additional information

> See the information provided under 13.1

## 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

B=No

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

A=Yes

#### 15.2 Additional information

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

> No new initiatives, but continuation of existing ones. Like for instance the the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (see weblink) in Wilhemshaven, Germany carrying out multiple activities for the Wadden Sea countries of the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. Additionally, there is the International Wadden Sea School (see weblink).

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

[International Wadden Sea School](#)

[Common Wadden Sea Secretariat](#)

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

#### 16.1 Additional information

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

> Though there are no specific action plans for wetland CEPA on national, sub-national or catchment level, there are still many on-going or initiated CEPA activities in the Netherlands. The government gives financial support to social organisations to raise awareness. The government has entered into a covenant with Staatsbosbeheer (Forestry Commission; a government related conservation management agency) to improve



social involvement. Staatsbosbeheer is the largest conservation management organisation in the Netherlands and plays a social role in many different forms. It organises many activities for nature education; over the years 115,000 children have planted trees on Tree Celebration Day, 6,000 children are active in the 'nature wise' programme, and the organisation manages 47 forest playgrounds.

The Institute for Nature Education (IVN) is the largest organisation for nature education in the Netherlands and is subsidised by the national and provincial governments. IVN aims to bring nature closer to people so that they will take better care of it. The organisation has 170 local departments, 120 professionals and thousands of volunteers. They organise many excursions, courses, hikes, exhibitions, etc. In 2016 IVN brought 500,000 people, including 100,000 children, into deeper contact with nature, among which wetlands.

Nature Conservation NGOs, foundations and associations (see weblinks of Natuurmonumenten, Staatsbosbeheer, De Landschappen, Waddenvereniging, Stichting de Noordzee) have their own CEPA programs also on site level. Special initiative is the Wadden Academy (see weblink), an independent network organisation. The Wadden Academy connects knowledge about the Wadden Sea area with regard to geoscience, ecology, cultural history, economy, climate and water, making it accessible and applicable. Similar work is performed by the International Wadden Sea School (see weblink).

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

[International Wadden Sea School](#)

[Wadden Academy](#)

[Stichting De Noordzee](#)

[Waddenvereniging](#)

[De Landschappen](#)

[Staatsbosbeheer](#)

[Natuurmonumenten](#)

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

G=More than (centres)

> 21

16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established?

{4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

b) at other wetlands

G=More than (centres)

> 7

16.2 Additional information

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

> Visitor, interpretation and education centres focussing on nature and the environment are found in all/most municipalities. Some are small and mainly managed by volunteers, others are large and professionally managed. The total number of centres is not exactly known.

Some 21 education centres are located at Ramsar sites: Oosterschelde (2), Wieden, Weerribben, Westerschelde and Saeftinghe, Biesbosch (3), Oostelijke Vechtplassen, Alde Feanen, Lauwersmeer, Groote Peel, Grevelingen, Oostvaardersplassen the Wadden sea and the Wadden islands of Texel, Vlieland, Terschelling, Ameland and Schiermonnikoog (7; which not only provide information on the island dunes but also on the Wadden Sea (incl. the Dollard) and adjacent Noordzee kustzone).

Visitor centres at other wetlands, for instance (see weblinks):

- Renkums Beekdal (stream)
- Polder Arkemheen (peat meadows)
- Gelderse Poort (flood plains river Rhine)
- Dwingelderveld (wet heath)
- Drentse Aa (stream)
- Leudal (stream)
- Reitdiep

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

[Reitdiep](#)

[Leudal](#)

[Drentse Aa](#)

[Dwingelderveld](#)

[Gelderse Poort](#)

[Polder Arkemheen](#)

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

Please select only one per square.

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

16.3 Additional information

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

> The Natura 2000 management plans have to be developed in close cooperation with the stakeholders. This is not developed especially for Ramsar, but will support the Ramsar objectives.

Many nature managers work with volunteers to carry out nature management measures. To a certain extent they even depend on it.

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

A=Yes

16.4 Additional information

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

> • In the Netherlands the National Ramsar Committee includes delegates from different NGO's, the scientific community and observers from the government.

• The frequency of meetings generally concerns 1 yearly meeting, or more depending the need.

• The subjects in the meeting discussed may include issues like the National Ramsar Report, the SC and CoP -agenda and World Wetlands Day.

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

C=Partially

16.5 Additional information

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

> The organisation BIJ12 (see weblink) works as an implementing organization for the twelve provinces. BIJ12 supports provinces in the performance of their common tasks, like in the area of Natura2000 (all Ramsar sites are Natura 2000-site).

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

BIJ12 - The organisation BIJ12 works as an implementing organization for the twelve provinces.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) other MEA national focal points	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input 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

> Within the Natura 2000 implementation process extensive communication and sharing of information amongst relevant ministries, departments and agencies and other stakeholders on wetland issues takes place. For Ramsar issues the Dutch National Ramsar Committee was established for this purpose.

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}

B=No

## 16.7 Additional information

> Not specifically Ramsar-branded but other initiatives have been carried out like the yearly Fish Migration Day (The world fish migration foundation is based in Groningen, the Netherlands (<https://www.dutchwatersector.com/events/world-fish-migration-day-2020>)).

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

[World fish migration day 2020](#)

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

> Projects or programs that illustrate the importance of wetlands for people and nature, like:

- Interreg North Sea Region Building with nature (see weblinks project websites).
- Room for the rivers: see weblink projectwebsite which includes a book Ruimte voor de rivier; veilig en mooi landschap (Room for the river; safe and beautiful landscape).
- Wetland caretaker network (Wetlandwachten-Vogelbescherming Nederland) - a network of volunteers following and reporting developments in important wetlands since 1995 (see weblink).

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

[Wetland Caretaker Network \(in Dutch\)](#)

[Room for the Rivers \(in Dutch\)](#)

[Interreg North Sea Region Building with Nature](#)

[Interreg North Sea Region Building with Nature](#)

## 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

A=Yes

## 17.3 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP12

> Among others support by the Netherlands Society for the Protection of Birds in Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, Tunisia, Sahel-countries and Indonesia (see weblink).

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

Vogelbescherming Nederland Internationaal - International Projects by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Birds

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

A=Yes

#### 17.4 Additional information

> Such assessments have been included in development cooperation for about 30 years.

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

> This is not necessary, because most focal points work in the same department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; one in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs-CBD- and one in the Ministry of Infrastructure & Environment - UNFCCC) and therefore have regular contacts.

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

> Yes, to a certain extent, depending on the nature of the issues at stake (e.g. with permanent representation with FAO on the GAWI (Guidelines on Agriculture and Wetlands Interactions) and GIAHS projects (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems); ITTO issues are coordinated in the same department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

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).

Y=Not Relevant

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

> • Outside Europe several projects have been implemented by Wetlands International with financial support from the Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs.

• Birdlife Partner 'Vogelbescherming Nederland' assists international conservation activities to partners abroad, like in West Africa and the Dutch Caribbean (see <https://www.vogelbescherming.nl/bescherming/wat-wij-doen/internationaal>).

• The Migratory Birds for People programme consists of 30 partner wetland visitor centres across Europe and West Africa, forming a network that follows the flight path of many migratory wetland birds species. These centres are working together to share best practice and develop new approaches to delivering waterbird and wetland messages to their visitors. The lead group consists of the Dutch Staatsbosbeheer and Wetlands

International (see weblink).

A number of Ramsar sites were/are twinned:

- The Wadden Sea is twinned with The Wash Ramsar site in the UK and with coastal areas of Guinea Bissau, including Lagoa Cufada Ramsar site.
- Five Dutch Ramsar sites are twinned under the EUROSITE programme with wetlands in France, Germany, Poland and the UK.

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

[Wetlands International - Migratory Birds for people Program](#)

[Vogelbescherming Internationaal](#) - International Projects by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Birds

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

A=Yes

#### 18.5 Additional information

- › Information about the Ramsar sites are collected in the EU Natura 2000-database.
- Organisation BIJ12 (see weblink) manages the National Databank on Flora and Fauna which to date contains some 150 million data (see 1.1.2).
- The Dutch Species Catalogue provides a current and comprehensive overview of Dutch biodiversity. It is based on the data gathered by experts in various aspects of flora and fauna (see weblink).
- For protected areas, among which wetlands, another website is available (natura 2000-database, see weblink)
- The Environmental Data Compendium (see weblink) provides many indicators on the actual quality of our living environment, among which wetlands.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality is also working with a system called "Wettelijke Onderzoeks Taken Informatievoorziening Natuur" (Legal Research Tasks Information provision Nature under development) to carry out the obligations within the framework of national and international legislation and requirements.

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

[BIJ12 works as an implementing organization for the twelve provinces.](#)

[Environmental Data Compendium](#)

[Natura 2000-database of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality](#)

[Dutch Species Register](#)

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

A=Yes

#### 18.6 Additional information

› Four Ramsar sites: Westerschelde (Scheldt estuary), Wadden Sea (including Eems-Dollard), North Sea Coastal Zone, Bargerveen. Furthermore the rivers Rijn (Gelderse Poort), Meuse (Grensmaas) and other smaller rivers and streams.

18.7 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

A=Yes

#### 18.7 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place

› Examples are:

- Cooperation with Belgium on the 2000 ha Grensmaas project (see weblink)
- Cooperation with Germany on the so-called Gelderse Poort (see weblink)
- Cooperation with Germany on the international nature park Veenland (see weblink)
- Cooperation with Germany and Denmark on the Wadden Sea (see hereafter)

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

[Natuurpark Moor-Veenland \(in Dutch/German\)](#)

[Gelderse poort project \(in Dutch/German\)](#)

[Grensmaas project \(in Dutch\)](#)

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

> • In 2014 UNESCO placed the whole international Wadden Sea of Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands on the World Heritage List recognizing the crucial importance of the site for the survival of migratory birds on a global scale. The three Wadden Sea countries have now an enhanced responsibility to strengthen cooperation with other countries for the conservation of migratory birds, especially along the East Atlantic Flyway.

• The designation as World Heritage site by UNESCO is a recognition of the Wadden Sea's crucial importance and responsibility for the conservation of migratory birds on a global scale. Upon request by UNESCO, the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) aims to strengthen cooperation on management and research activities with States Parties on the African Eurasian Flyways, which play a significant role in conserving migratory species along these flyways. The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) was launched in 2012 to implement this request.

• The intertidal ecosystem of Banc d'Arguin at the West African Atlantic coast shares the Wadden Sea's significance for migratory birds and World Heritage status. It is the most important wintering area for Wadden Sea birds along the East Atlantic Flyway (EAF) in Africa. In the interest of the better protection of migratory birds along the EAF, the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) and Mauritania's Banc d'Arguin National Park (PNBA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the 12th Trilateral Governmental Conference in Tønder, Denmark, in 2014.

• The Netherlands are also partner in the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its African -Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and the Seal Agreement.

## Target 19

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 17]

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

B=No

### 19.1 Additional information

> This is considered not relevant in the Netherlands.

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

A=Yes

### 19.2 Additional information

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

> Educational programmes on Forest and Nature Conservation (including wetland conservation and wise-use related issues) are offered at all educational levels: Secondary Vocational Education, Universities of Applied Sciences and Scientific Universities.

19.3 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP13? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv

a) at Ramsar Sites

X=Unknown

19.3 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP13? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv

b) at other wetlands

X=Unknown

### 19.3 Additional information

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

> All management teams of nature conservation areas consist of well-educated employees. Additional training is part of the job. The type of training needed will be agreed between the employee and his/her manager. An overview is not available.

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

