NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

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

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

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

Ramsar COP14 National Report Format (NRF)

Background information

1. The COP14 National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting (SC57) for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention.

2. The NRF is being issued by the Secretariat in 2019 to facilitate Contracting Parties' implementation planning and preparations for completing the Report. The deadline for submission of national targets is 24 January 2020 and the deadline for submission of completed National Reports is 21 January 2021 (final dates will be updated once the dates for COP14 are agreed).

3. This COP14 NRF closely follows that used for COP13, to permit continuity of reporting and analysis of implementation progress by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP13 NRF). It is also structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2016-2024 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP12 through Resolution XII.2.

4. This COP14 NRF includes 90 indicator questions. In addition, Section 4 is provided as an optional annex in order to facilitate the task of preparing the Party's national targets and actions for the implementation of each of the Targets of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 in accordance with Resolution XII.2.

5. As was the case for previous NRFs, the COP14 NRF includes an optional section (Section 5) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information on indicators relevant to each individual Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site) within its territory.

6. Note that, for the purposes of this national reporting to the Ramsar Convention, the scope of the term "wetland" is that of the Convention text, i.e. all inland wetlands (including lakes and rivers), all nearshore coastal wetlands (including tidal marshes, mangroves and coral reefs) and human-made wetlands (e.g. rice paddy and reservoirs), even if a national definition of "wetland" may differ from that adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

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

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention and are made publicly available on the Convention's website.

8. There are seven main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are:

    i) to provide data and information on how, and to what extent, the Convention is being implemented;
    ii) to provide tools for countries for their national planning;
    iii) to capture lessons and experience to help Parties plan future action;
    iv) to identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
    v) to provide a means for Parties to account for their commitments under the Convention;

vi) to provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementing the Convention, and to plan its future priorities; and
vii) to provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.

9. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention".

10. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, the Ramsar Secretariat holds in a database all the information it has received and verified. As for COP13, the COP14 reports will be in an online national reporting system.

11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:

i) providing an opportunity to compile and analyze information that contracting parties can use to inform their national planning and programming;

ii) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global, national and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the COP as a series of Information Papers, including:
- the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level; and
- the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance);

iii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP;

iv) providing the source data for time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (4th edition, 2010); and

v) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP used the COP10 NRF indicators extensively in 2009 to prepare contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems for consideration by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3). Similar use of COP13 NRF indicators is anticipated for the CBD's post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The structure of the COP14 National Report Format

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

General guidance for completing and submitting the COP14 National Report Format

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

13. All Sections of the COP14 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).

14. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is January 21st 2021. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP14.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Planning of National Targets

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

National Targets (Text Answer):	*Development of a National Joint Framework on Wetlands for the management wetlands ecological infrastructure* *Identification of New Wetlands to be designated as Wetlands of International Importance* *Establishment of reactive team to conduct assessment on the removal of the Blesbokspruit and Orange River Mouth from the Montreux Record register* *Implementation of the Monitoring Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) to all Ramsar sites* *Restoration and Rehabilitation of degraded wetlands ecosystems.* *To analyse the South Africa inventory of inland aquatic ecosystems*
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	*Rehabilitation of 76 wetlands, including 1 Ramsar site. Refining the planning processes based on the evolving prioritization regime which embraces the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and other national targets based on the National Biodiversity Assessment 2018 findings.*
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals **Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021**	*A comprehensive validation of the extent, ecological condition and ecosystem services of rivers and wetlands at a fine scale within South African Ramsar sites. To date South Africa has not reached their Aichi target for rivers and wetlands. The identification of additional Ramsar sites can contribute to closing the gap.*

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

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

22. The NRF should ideally be completed by the principal compiler in consultation with relevant colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP13 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided. In the online system there is an option to allow consultation with others.

23. After each session, **remember to save the file**. A recommended filename structure is: COP14NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP14NRFSpain13January 2021.doc

24. After the NRF has been completed using the word version (offline), please enter the data in the NR online system at this link: https://reports.ramsar.org or send it by email (nationalreports@ramsar.org) by January 21st 2021. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice at (nationalreports@ramsar.org).

25. The completed NRF **must be accompanied by a letter that can be uploaded in the online system or send by email (nationalreports@ramsar.org) in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP14 National Report**.

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

National Report to Ramsar COP14

Section 1: Institutional information

Important note: the responses below will be considered by the Ramsar Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points, and will be used to update the information it holds. The Secretariat's current information about your focal points is available at https://www.ramsar.org/search?f%5B0%5D=type%3Aperson#search-contacts.

Name of Contracting Party:	**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority:	DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr Ishaam Abader: Acting Director-General
Mailing address:	PRIVATE BAG X447, PRETORIA, 0001
Telephone/Fax:	+27 12 399 9000/ +27 12 359 3625
Email:	Iabader@environment.gov.za

Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title:	Mr Stanley Tshitwamulomoni, Director: Water Sources & Wetlands Conservation
Mailing address:	PRIVATE BAG X447, PRETORIA, 0001
Telephone/Fax:	+27 12 399 9587/ +27 12 359 3637
Email:	StanleyT@environment.gov.za

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

Name and title:	Mr Stanley Tshitwamulomoni, Director: Water Sources & Wetlands Conservation
Name of organisation:	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Mailing address:	PRIVATE BAG X447, PRETORIA, 0001
Telephone/Fax:	+27 12 399 9587/ +27 12 359 3637
Email:	StanleyT@environment.gov.za

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

Name and title:	Mr Stanley Tshitwamulomoni, Director: Water Sources & Wetlands Conservation
Name of organisation:	DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
Mailing address:	PRIVATE BAG X447, PRETORIA, 0001
Telephone/Fax:	+27 12 399 9587/ +27 12 359 3637
Email:	StanleyT@environment.gov.za

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

Name and title:	N/A
Name of organisation:	
Mailing address:	

Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	

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) Designation of Dassen Island Nature Reserve; Dyer Island Provincial Nature Reserve and Geyser Island Provincial Nature Reserve and Kgaswane Mountain Reserve.

2) Publication of both National Biodiversity Assesssment of 2018 (NBA 2018; see i.a. Van Deventer et al., 2019; Van Niekerk et al., 2019), and the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) Atlas in 2011 (Nel et al., 2011) and completed 5 year Provincial Strategic Plans for all 9 provinces

3) Development of the Web-Based METT Tool that incoporates all protected areas including Ramsar sites

4) Finalisation of the South African Inventory of Inland Aquatic Ecosystems (SAIIAE) (Van Deventer et al., 2018), an inventory including data on the river extent (lines), National Wetland Map version 5 (NWM5, polygons; Van Deventer et al., 2020), and other pressures and protected areas.

5) Annual National Wetlands Indaba Conferences supported by Provincial Wetlands Forums.

References:

Nel, J.L.; Driver, A.; Strydom, W.F.; Maherry, A.; Petersen, C.; Hill, L.; Roux, D.J.; Nienaber, D.; Van Deventer, H.; Swartz, E. & Smith-Adao, L.B. 2011. Atlas of Freshwater Ecosystems Priority Areas in South Africa: Maps to support sustainable development of water resources Report to the Water Research Commission WRC Report No. TT 500/11.

Van Deventer, H., Smith-Adao, L.; Mbona, N.; Petersen, C.; Skowno, A.; Collins, N.B.; Grenfell, M.; Job, N.; Lötter, M.; Ollis, D.; Scherman, P.; Sieben, E. & Snaddon, K. 2018. South African National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: Technical Report. Volume 2a: South African Inventory of Inland Aquatic Ecosystems (SAIIAE). Version 3, final released on 3 October 2019. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI): Pretoria, South Africa. Report Number: CSIR report number CSIR/NRE/ECOS/IR/2018/0001/A; SANBI report number http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12143/5847.

Van Niekerk, L., Adams, J.B., Lamberth, S.J., MacKay, F., Taljaard, S., Turpie, J.K., Weerts S. & Raimondo, D.C. (2019) (eds). South African National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: Technical Report. Volume 3: Estuarine Realm. CSIR report number CSIR/SPLA/EM/EXP/2019/0062/A. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria. Report Number: SANBI/NAT/NBA2018/2019/Vol3/A. http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12143/6373.

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

1) Establishment of the Ramsar Regional Initiative for Southern African Development Community
2) Removal of the Blesbokspruit and Orange River Mouth/Estuary from the Montreux Record
3) The control of the increasing occurrence of peatlands burning on the Maputaland Coastal Plain (MCP) affecting the aquifer-dependent wetlands within the Kosi Bay, Lake Sibaya and St Lucia Ramsar sites.
4) Controlling the increasing occurrent of slash and burn operations of range-restricted swamp forest habitats on the MCP, resulting in the degradation of aquifer-dependent wetlands within the Kosi Bay, Lake Sibaya and St Lucia Ramsar sites.
5) Securing funding for validation, monitoring and fine-scale studies on wetlands.

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

1) Establish a standalone Ramsar sites METT assessment score baseline
2) Development of the National Joint Framework on Wetlands
3) Removal of the Blesbokspruit and Orange River Mouth/Estuary from the Montreux Record
4) Designation of four Ramsar sites by 2024
5) Validation of degradation on the MCP
6) Data acquisition and management strategy for a "one stop shop for all wetland info in the countrty.
7) Collecting wetland monitoring data (implementation of National Wetland Management Programme and Citizen science contribution)
8) To develop the next version of the National Wetland map

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

Yes, Ramsar Advisory Mission to guide on the removal of the Blesbokspruit and Orange River Mouth from the Montreux Record

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)

IOPs should enhance it is partnerships with Contracting Parties

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)?

1. By fostering synergies among all MEAs for successful implementation of biodiversity related programmes and projects i.e Contracting Parties with NBSAPs can ehance the implementation through implementation of the NBSAPs and related programmes.
2. The National Focal Points for these Conventions and national reporting should be harminised at the internatinal level.
3. More research is needed on climate change impacts on Ramsar sites; especially peatlands

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?

By fostering synergies, ensuring that strategies aim to address issues of water, poverty and biodiversity while embracing a component addressing wise use of wetlands and conservation of wetlands. The Working for Wetlands Programme, as with the other Working for Programmes, pitches its work in strategic water source areas of the country, thus making focused impact on the water resources for South Africa.

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

In South Africa, there is a balance between men and women participating on wetland-related decision making, programmes implementation and research initiative. The South African Inventory of Inland Aquatic Ecosystems (SAIIAE) is lead by women and supprted by men; the development of the National Joint Framework on wetlands is being lead by women, the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) is being lead by women suported by men. The National Working for Wetlands programme employs 60% women.

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

None

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

National Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation
National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
Water Research Commission
South African National Biodiversity Institute
South Africa National Parks
Emvelo KZN Wildlife
CapeNature
Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
North West Parks and Toursim Board
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Gauteng Provincial Government
Department of Economic Development, Environement and Tourism, Limpopo Provincial Government
Department of Environment anf Nature Conservation, Northern Cape Provincial Government
Birdlife South Africa
Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

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

Target 1. *Wetland benefits are featured in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.*
[Reference to Aichi Target 2]

1.1 Have wetland conservation and the identification of wetlands benefits been integrated into sustainable approaches to the following national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.3.2} {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant

a)	National Policy or strategy for wetland management:	A
b)	Poverty eradication strategies:	A
c)	Water resource management and water efficiency plans:	C
d)	Coastal and marine resource management plans:	A
e)	Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan:	A
f)	National forest programmes:	A
g)	National policies or measures on agriculture:	A
h)	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD:	A
i)	National policies on energy and mining:	X
j)	National policies on tourism:	A
k)	National policies on urban development:	C
l)	National policies on infrastructure:	X
m)	National policies on industry:	X
n)	National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i:	A
o)	National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management:	A
p)	National policies on wastewater management and water quality:	A

1.1 Additional information:

South Africa is in the process of developing a National Joint Framework on Wetlands for the management of wetlands in South Africa. This is a joint initiative between the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation and the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

The South African government created and operationalized the Expended Public Works Programme. Under this programme there are a number of sub-programmes that focus on labour intensive restoration, rehabilitation and management of natural resources including wetland ecosystems. A specific sub-programme titled 'Working for Wetlands', has been operational since 2000. The programme focuses on restoration, protection and wise use of wetlands whilst at the same time providing employment creation, skills transfer and enterprise development especially for disadvantaged youth and women.

Target 2. *Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.*
[Reference to Aichi Targets 7 and 8], [Sustainable Development Goal 6, Indicator 6.3.1]

2.1	Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed to support the implementation of the Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1, VIII.2) ? 1.24.	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

2.1 Additional information:
The Ecological Water Requirements (EWRs) that wetlands require to enable them, as a natural water resource, to support their ecological infrastructure (ecosystem services) are addressed in terms of Section 14 to 17 in the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998). The first EWRs to be determined by the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, date back to the early 1990's, during the method development process. Since then a large number of EWRs have been assessed.

The water requirement to support in-stream and riparian habitats are taken into account and rated based on the hydro geomorphic type, their position in the landscape, the functional importance of the wetland and its sensitivity to changes. The importance of a wetland is influenced by one or more factors: its status as being a Ramsar wetland, or if wetlands are in a conservation area, or if the wetlands are functioning as a complex of wetlands all contributing to biodiversity, or if the wetlands are a threatened type (like peat wetlands) and/or the wetland supporting hydrological functioning of the surface water or groundwater surrounding the wetland or downstream.

These EWRs are determined through scientifically validated methods and assessments are conducted by a team of accredited experts. Methods exist for determining the water allocations from surface and groundwater to sustain rivers, estuaries and wetlands. The results are produced (pending on the type of wetland) either as the water quantity and quality required, with other ecological specifications (conditions for management) or in the case of seeps and pans, ecological conditions are set that addresses the contribution of these wetlands as a wetland type and as their importance in the hydrological landscape. The results are published in the South African government gazette and are legally enforceable.

Resource Directed Measures: Measures for water resources, including wetlands, consisting of the determination of Environmental Flow Requirements (EFR) for both quality and quantity), determining the management class for significant water resources and setting Resource Quality Objectives.

South Africa's National Wetland Monitoring Programme led by DWS. is in the process of being set up, SANBI will support this programme through continued improvement of the status of data on the condition of wetlands to be reported in the National Wetland Map annual version updates.

SANBI's Freshwater Biodiversity Unit is engaged in several projects with a focus in improving understanding of wetland hydrology and water quality across the country's wetlands including: GEF 5 Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security Water Resource Accounts component for multiple catchments with University of KZN; a wetland-catchment research collaboration for multiple wetlands and catchments with University of the Free State; an MOU with The Nature Conservancy on a freshwater biodiversity monitoring protocols, including wetland hydrology monitoring, in several regions where TNC are supporting setting up Water Funds; a field-based pilot project on monitoring priority wetlands for the Western Cape province in collaboration with mutliple partners (includes wetland water quality monitoring and detailed wetland water level monitoring); collaboration with the University of Stellenbosch and Rhodes University on NRF-funded research on the *Resilience of regulatory ecosystem services in wetlands: factors impacting upon sediment trapping, phosphate assimilation and toxicant removal* (6 students and 3 senior researchers); as well as 2 independent MSc research projects on wetland-agriculture interactions.

SANBI also leads a Natural Capital Accounting programme of work which will continue to explore wetland-related reporting.

2.2	Have assessments of environmental flow been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands (Action r3.4.iv)	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

2.2 Additional information:
Chapter 3 of the NWA (Act 36 of 1998) outlines a set of three measures to protect water resources, namely the Class, Resource Quality Objectives (RQOs) and the Reserve (EWRs). The RQOs provide a set of specifications for the management requirements to meet a specific Target Ecological Category (TEC) for a particular wetland and it also provides the ecological requirements that need to be implemented before additional development can take place, or the ecological specification required to bring the wetland to the TEC if it is not in that category already in its present state.

The Minister of the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, the Director-General, an organ of state and the water management institutions, must give effect to any determination of the class of a water resource, the RQOs and the Reserve when exercising any power or performing any duty in terms of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998). This includes issuing of water use authorizations where the environmental flow is set as the first requirement to be met before new authorizations for use can be approved.

National wetland programs such as Working for Wetlands uses the gazetted environmental flows and RQOs as a target to work towards when implementing mitigation and rehabilitation measures.

2.3	What, if any, initiatives have 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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; O= No Change; X= Unknown

2.3 Additional information:

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is implemented as best practice in South Africa. Policies and implementation of IWRM, applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in water resource planning activities on a national, provincial and local government level as well as cross boundary in the other SADC counties. At a water resource systems level water resource plans (known as reconciliation strategies) aim to reconcile future water demands with supply and take account of EWRs when determining future interventions. Similarly, water quality management plans such as those determined for the Vaal and more recently, the Olifants River Basins, take account of the water quality requirements of ecosystems when determining source and resource based water quality interventions. Where towns are highly dependent on groundwater, Aquifer Management Plans are developed which take account of the groundwater contributions to wetlands.

These plans are of particular importance in informing decisions concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, and land to sea management. Sustainable water use is thus addressed from a strategic level/holistic picture related to activities in the catchment and how those activities ultimately effect a particular wetland/s on a more localized scale. How has the cumulative impacts related to water and land use changed the wetland from its natural state to its present state. This information will indicate what actions are required to be implemented to manage the wetland/s to achieve its sustainable state. The provision of ecological water requirements and basic human needs (where people are directly dependent on the water resource/wetland for their subsistence use) is the only right to water in the NWA and should be determined before any water use could be considered of authorized.

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

2.4 Additional information:
The RESLIM-O project undertaken on behalf of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) by the Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD) developed and implemented a number of best practices in terms of monitoring the compliance to the allocated environmental water requirements

USAID's Resilience in the Limpopo River Basin (RESILIM) program addresses ongoing degradation in the Limpopo River Basin in southern Africa, where people face water shortages, increased floods, and declines in crop productivity as climate change further stresses an already water limited region. The USAID's RESILIM-O focusses on the Olifants catchment. The program aims to reduce the vulnerability of people and ecosystems in the Olifants Catchment specifically, by improving how transboundary natural resources are managed. By understanding the systemic causes of vulnerability, including climate vulnerability, it is promoting new ways of thinking and acting to promote integrated water and biodiversity management.

As part of the RESLIM-O initiative real time monitoring systems have been implemented on a number of gauging stations on the Olifants River and in particular on those in close proximaty to the Kruger National Park. This system has been developed by AWARD and measures daily flows in order to assess whether the Ecological Water Requirements are being met and to expedite corrective action where applicable.

2.5 Percentage of households linked to sewage system ? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	61.3 %
2.5 Additional information: Source: General Household Survey, Statistics South Africa, 2018. http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P03182018.pdf	

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

2.6 Additional information: Access to basic sanitation is 83% (General Household Survey, Statistics South Africa, 2018) http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P03182018.pdf	

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
	E=# percent;
	F=Less Than # percent;
	G= More Than # percent;
	X= Unknown;
	Y= Not Relevant

2.7 Additional information: Percentage of users with septic tanks: 3.8% Percentage of users with ventilated improved pit latrines: 17.5% Source: General Household Survey, Statistics South Africa, 2018) http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P03182018.pdf	

2.8 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	A A= Yes, B= No; C= Partially, D=Planned X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.8 Additional information: Yes, the SAIIAE's artificial wetland map shows the geographic location (point dataset for Waterwater Treatment Works) and extent of some of these in the polygon shapefile of artificial wetlands. This is an emerging practice in South Africa, with many examples in the private sector across the country. There are currently 194 WWTWs registered as using oxidation ponds for secondary treatment, and maturation ponds and reed beds as tertiary treatment processes on the South African Integrated Regulatory Information System (iRIS). Data on constructed wetlands / reed beds is of a relatively low confidence, it is estimated that there at least more than 30 constructed wetlands being used for the treatment of storm water and domestic effluent in South Africa. Source: DWS, Integrated Regulatory Information System (iRIS)	

2.9 Number of wastewater treatment plants (or volume treated exist at national level)?
SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.
	G
	E= # plants;
	F= Less than #;
	G=More than #;
	X= Unknown;
	Y= Not Relevant

2.9 Additional information: There are over 1150 Waste Water Treatment Plants in South Africa (Source: Department of Water and Sanitation. 2018. National Water and Sanitation Master Plan. Volume 1, A Call to Action)	

2.10 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants? If relevant to your country SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	C A=Good; B=Not Functioning; C=Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.10 Additional information: Approximately 56% of the over 1 150 municipal wastewater treatment works (WWTWs) in the country are in a poor or critical condition and in need of urgent rehabilitation and skilled operators. Some 11% of this infrastructure is completely dysfunctional, 44% are in a functioning condition. (Source: Department of Water and Sanitation. 2018. National Water and Sanitation Master Plan. Volume 1, A Call to Action)	

2.11 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	X A=Good; B=Not Functioning C=Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.11 Additional information: There are approximately 200 constructed wetlands and ponds in the country (see question 2.8). Lack of influent and effluent monitoring data makes the determination of their functioning difficult.	

2.12 Number of wastewater reuse systems (or volume re-used) and purpose? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	X
2.12 Additional information: Water reuse has not been widely implemented in South Africa. Exact numbers of wastewater reuse systems and volumes reused is currently unknown, although there are some local success stories. The community of Beaufort West in the Karoo region, for instance, blends approximately 20 percent reused water into its water supply from local dams. The Durban Water Reclamation Plant treats 47.5Ml of domestic and industrial wastewater to a near potable standard for sale to industrial customers for direct use in their processes. In a number of systems domestic wastewater is reused for the purpose of irrigating pastures. Water reuse is expected to grow in future as South African strategies call for improved water use efficiency.	

2.13 What is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system if relevant to your country ? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	R, T R=Agriculture; S=Landscape; T=Industrial; U=Drinking; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
2.13 Additional information: Please indicate if the wastewater reuse system is for free or taxed or add any additional information. Wastewater is primarily reused for agricultural and industrial purposes	

2.14 Does your country use a wastewater treatment process that utilizes wetlands as a natural filter while preserving the wetland ecosystem?	A A=Yes; B=No; X= Unknown;

2.14 Additional information: If Yes, please provide an example
The direct discharge of water containing waste into wetlands, including estuaries and the marine environment does take place but is strictly regulated through South African legislation to ensure that discharged wastewater meets certain standards to protect human health and ecosystem requirements and to ensure that water is fit-for-use for downstream users. The discharge of effluent into an estuary must be authorized by the Department of Environmental Affairs in terms of National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998): Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations. Discharge of water containing waste into a water resource is regulated through the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998.

Wetlands are normally used to polish final effluent rather than used as a primary treatment. The discharge of untreated wastewater directly into natural wetland systems is not considered best practice in South Africa.

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

3.1 Additional information:
The private sector mostly engages on wetland related issues through applications for the authorisation of developments that affect wetlands in terms of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 and the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998. As part of such applications a number of guidelines are applied. South African legislation and wetland guidelines are in keeping with the Ramsar wise use guidelines.

South Africa has a number of platforms where business is engaged in water related issues this includes the Business and Biodiversity Network, driven by a non-governmental organisation, called the Endangered Wildlife Trust. The National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN) recognises the importance of biodiversity to business and builds the capacity of business to act as a positive force for the conservation of biodiversity in South Africa

Large pulp and paper industries and well as Sugar Cane industries have many wetlands within their plantations and are encouraged to delineate buffer zones and remove sugar cane and the plantation trees from wetland areas. These industries are often involved in various awareness campaigns to inform the surrounding communities.

A number of NGOs also have awareness campaigns targeted at the public and private sector on the wise use of wetlands and the benefits for property owners to maintain the functionality of the wetlands, the legislation protecting wetlands i.e. the demarcated buffer zone required before development can occur.

Programs such as working for water and wetlands not only provide job opportunities but it also provides training to the local communities on the wise use of wetlands. Schools and the youth are made aware of resources through programs such as mini SASS (monitoring of the health of rivers based on aquatic indicators reacting on their habitat which is an indicator of water resource health). Water week also focus on programs such as adopt a river by including the private sector/communities to take responsibility for a stretch of water resource to clean.

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:	A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
a) Ramsar Sites b) Wetlands in general	a) X b) C

3.2 Additional information:
The private sector has contributed funds towards wetland research.

The private sector has also funded associations such as ‘friends of Nylsvlei”, and other volunteer groups. Volunteers from the community and private sector participate in monitoring programs such as QUACK (bird counts and species identification) that is recorded on a national database. Private sector has also contributed towards the National Wetland Indaba (South Africa’s National Annual Conference on Wetlands).

Further investments by the Private Sector are typically as per the legislative requirements where rehabilitation of wetlands by the private sector has taken place. It also includes the monitoring of the wetlands as per specified monitoring indicators.

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

3.3 Additional information:
Measures have been taken to create awareness on the benefits of wetlands, as an incentive for the public and private sector to improve their protection and restoration efforts.

Developers, including high impact developers such as forestry , mining , local government and agriculture, attempt to implement best practice, since best practices could be advantagious to improved tourism, prevent increased costs in water purification, prevent flooding in town planning zoned areas etc. Thus the incentatives are indirect in terms of the ecological infrastructure that intact wetlands provide. Awareness capaigns addressing the benefits and the incentives that can be obtained by healty functioning wetlands need to be amplified.

South Afrcia is currently engaged in studies related to the payment for ecological services (PES's) as a potential charge to be reserved as part of the water tarrifs in catchments. This portion of PES's should then be utilised to restore wetland or aquatic systems, espcially those in the Strategic Water Source Areas (the so called water factories in SA) and other areas that require high levels of protection.

Biodiversity Stewardship Programme which offers tax incentives as well as landowner support in terms of direct management support or support to develop management plans
Biodiversity Offset guidelines.

3.4	Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i	**Z** A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable

3.4 Additional information:

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

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

4.1 Additional information:
Yes, South Africa has such an inventory. The Alien and Invasive Species Regulations of 2014 (as amended) have specifically listed several species for control or eradication on inland and offshore islands. The country also has the *Baseline data document for alien and invasive species monitoring (published in* 2018)*,* that indicated a total of 57 species that are known to occur in at least 8 Ramsar sites in South Africa. The highest number of A&IS are found in Wilderness (14 species), followed by Makuleke, Langebaan lagoon, and Barberspan nature reserve with 10 species each. A total of 40 species identified on those 8 Ramsar sites are listed in terms of AIS NEMBA Regulations as amended in 2016 and 2017 are not yet listed. Of the common top 10 AIS that are found in the Ramsar sites, Azolla spp. (*Azolla filiculoides*) is found in three Ramsar sites. At least eight are commonly found in not more than two Ramsar sites.

In addition, we have some specific examples that show that several invasive plants species invading the wetlands in South Africa have been listed as requiring control (category 1b), with some having been identified as potential targets for eradication (category 1a) at the islands managed by South Africa (for example Bent Grass [*Agrostis castellana]* on Prince Edward Island). In addition, five mammal and one bird species have been listed as requiring control specifically on islands. These include three species of rats (genus *Rattus*), the house mouse *Mus musculus*, the rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* and the Chukar partridge [*Alectoris chukar]*. Two mammal species (the goat [*Capra hircus]* and the domestic cat [*Felis catus]*) have also been listed as potential eradication targets.

4.2 Have national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management been established or reviewed for wetlands? {1.9.2} KRA 1.9.iii	**A** A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

4.2 Additional information:

Section 75 (4) of NEM:BA requires that the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries ensures the coordination and implementation of programmes for the prevention, control or eradication of invasive species. The Act also empowers [section 75 (5)] the Minister to establish an entity consisting of public servants to coordinate and implement programmes for the prevention, control or eradication of invasive species. The A&IS Regulations, published in 2014 under the NEM:BA state further (in Chapter 2) that "if an Invasive Species Management Programme has been developed in terms of section 75(4) of the Act, a person must control the listed invasive species in accordance with such programme".

In this regard, the management authorities of protected areas, and all other organs of state in all spheres of government are required to prepare area management plans (termed "Invasive Species Monitoring, Control and Eradication Plans" in the regulations), and to submit those plans to the Minister of Environment. The guidelines for control plans set out the requirements for adequate planning, and plans were required to include the following:

- A detailed list and description of any listed invasive species occurring on the relevant land.
- A description of the part of land that is infested with such listed invasive species.
- An assessment of the extent of such infestation.
- A review of the efficacy of previous control and eradication measures.
- A description of the measures to monitor, control and eradicate the listed invasive species.
- Measurable indicators of progress and success, and indications of when the control plan is to be completed.

In addition, the management actions of invasive species, are supported by awareness interventions which are deployed to raise public awareness on the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet, and also to highlight the importance of effective management of invasive species infesting our wetlands. Such awareness activities gather much needed feedback from the stakeholders on what can be done and provide platform for the exchange of information on the challenges of biological invasions in our water resources.

4.3	Has your country successfully controlled through management actions invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems?	**A=Yes**; B=No; X= Unknown

4.3. Additional information: (If 'Yes', please provide examples, including the species name and the successful management actions

The Working for Water Programme (WfWater) established in 1995 is the South Africa's largest funder of invasive species control measures. Its original purpose was to implement invasive plant control operations to reduce their impacts on water resources, and to create much-needed employment amongst the rural poor. This programme has been subsequently renamed to a suite of programmes which include the Working for Wetlands programme which also provide considerable support to management of Ramsar sites where rehabilitation or control of AIS is problematic. In addition, SA is in the process of adopting a national strategy for managing biological invasions as the next step to ensure that the work of all role-players is integrated and that all projects are working towards national objectives thus include control and management actions in wetlands ecosystem.

A typical example on the successful control and management of invasive species is the one on the Domestic Cat that has been successfully eradicated from the Prince Edwards Islands in SA. In the next coming years South Africa will be embarking on a process of eradicating the House Mouse in the same islands. It is worth noting that it has been estimated that about 5% of the Prince Edward Islands (PEIs), which is also a Ramsar site of high conservation value, is covered by invasive plants, which have established around the coastal periphery on both Marion and Prince Edward Islands, and they are spreading across the inland. Studies on the impacts thereof have primarily focussed on the effects of vertebrate invaders, of which the house mouse, which is restricted to Marion Island, is the invasive species which probably has the greatest impact on the indigenous biota of the islands. Because of the risk of alien introductions, strict biosecurity regulations govern activities at the PEIs. These are particularly aimed at reducing the rates of introduction of new alien species. In addition, some effort is currently being made to eradicate selected range-restricted species

4.4	Are there invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems that have not been successfully controlled through management actions?	A=Yes; **B=No;** X= Unknown

4.4 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please provide examples, including the species name and the challenges to management)

No, most of the invasive species that causes detrimental effects in South Africa have been prioritised for invasive species management control programmes and even those listed under category two are regulated in terms of permitting system.

4.5	Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?	**A** A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
4.5 Additional information: Yes. The first national status report on invasive species and their management in South Africa was published in 2017. The status report created an excellent foundation on which to build a comprehensive monitoring and reporting programme, which can guide research and implementation efforts. In addition, many studies have assessed the impacts of individual AIS, particularly plants (Henderson & Wilson, 2017), but very few have spatially assessed the combined impacts of co-occurring AIS into site specific spatial scale (Le Maitre et al., 2016). Therefore, the R-METT that was developed and piloted for implementation in 2018 incorporates invasive species component in it for the effectiveness of management control programmes on wetlands. References: Henderson & Wilson, 2018 Le Maitre et al., 2016		

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

5.1 Additional information:

There is no strategy and priorities established for further designation of the Ramsar sites using Strategic Framework for Ramsar list. However, Ramsar sites in South Africa are designated in line with the Ramsar Criteria after various assessment research and studies.

As part of continued improvements to the National Wetland Map SANBI is focused on strengthening the broad foundational base from which to systematically and defensibly identify future Ramsar sites. This includes the development of a robust wetland ecosystem classification system representative of on-the-ground wetland ecology and diversity across South Africa and relatable both to the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology as well as to the Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) standard assessment which emphasizes, amongst other components, the development of a conceptual model to understand key ecosystem drivers and processes and key threats. The national classification system, and linkages with the IUCN classification systems is overseen by the National Wetland Ecosystem Classification Committee and National Ecosystem Classification Committees convened by SANBI.

5.2	Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.1} KRA 2.2.ii	**A** A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
5.2 Additional information:		

5.3	How many Ramsar Sites have a formal management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	**26** E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.4	Of the Ramsar Sites with a formal management plan, for how many of these is the plan being implemented ? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i	**26** E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.5	Of the Ramsar sites without a formal management plan, for how many is there effective management planning currently being implemented through other relevant means e.g. through existing actions for appropriate wetland management? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	 E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.3 – 5.5 Additional information: All sites have management plans and being effectively implemented. All Ramsar sites are also being assessed using the Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tools to assist Management Authority with management effectiveness.		

5.6	Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with either a formal management plan) or management via other relevant means where they exist e.g through existing actions for appropriate wetland management ? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

5.6 Additional information:

South Africa has developed the Ramsar Monitoring Management Effectiveness Tracking Tools for Ramsar sites in line with Resolution XII.15 and incorporated it into the Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool. In addition, the country also develop the Web-Based METT Tool for all protected areas including Ramsar sites.

5.7 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.4} {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	**10** E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X=Unknown, Y=Not Relevant;

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

Makuleke Wetlands has a joint management board which comprises of representatives from the Makuleke Communal Property Association, and the South Africa National Parks.

Management of Estuarine Ecosystems:

All the Ramsar sites are Estuaries or parts thereof have a cross-sectoral management body which comprise all stakeholders involves in their management. These include, the Orange River Mouth, De Hoop Vlei, De Mond, Verlorenvlei, Kosi Bay, Lake Sibaya, St. Lucia System and Turtle Beaches/ Coral Reefs of Tongaland, and Langebaan.

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Sites; D=Planned

7.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):

Yes, there is National Ramsar Committee which meet twice a year. This committee develop an implementation plan for each financial year in which all activities, projects and programmes being implemented are incoporated into the committee workplan. Any changes in ecological character of Ramsar sites related to article 3.2 are also included on this plan and committee members/ Management Authority of the concerned sites are able to report on intervention measures and progress.

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** A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Cases; O=No Negative Change
7.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):		

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	**A** A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
7.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken): Currently, South Africa has two Ramsar sites on the Montreux Record, namely, Blesbokspruit and Orange River Mouth/Estuary. The report on the status of the Orange River Mouth Ramsar site was developed and submitted to the secretariat. South Africa will initiate the process of removing the two sites from the Montreux Record, including requesting the Ramsar Advisory Mission to assist in this regards.		

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

8.1 Additional information:
The South African Inventory of Inland Aquatic Ecosystems (SAIIAE) is a collection of datasets which depicts the extent of rivers, inland wetlands, artificial systems and a number of pressures and protected areas for the country (Van Deventer et al., 2018; 2020). Continuous improvement is under way, coordinate by the South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), particularly on the National Wetlands Map version 5 (NWM5; Van Deventer et al., 2020), to improve the representation of inland wetlands. NWM5 includes the extent of inland wetlands and estuaries (Van Deventer et al., 2020; Van Niekerk et al., 2019). There is a need to validate the extent and ecological condition of wetlands within Ramsar sites.

An updated version release of the National Wetland Map (NWM 6) is on track for March 2021. Emphasis will be placed on validating the extent and ecological condition of wetlands within Ramsar sites as part of this update.

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8.2 Has your country updated a National Wetland Inventory in the last decade?	A A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; C1= Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

8.2 Additional information:
Yes, the National Wetland Map has been updated to version 5 (Van Deventer et al., 2020), while the South African Inventory of Inland Aquatic Ecosystems (SAIIAE) has been generated as the first inventory of all related datasets. The extent and condition of estuaries has also been updated (Van Niekerk et al., 2019) and included in the NWM5. The Estuarine Realm (Van Niekerk et al. 2019) improved the delineation of estuaries for the NBA 2018, and are represented by 290 Estuarine Functional Zones (EFZs) and 42 micro-estuaries. These EFZs and micro-estuaries each comprises of an inland and shore component, which emerged from the alignment with the inland wetlands (Van Deventer et al. 2019; 2020) and coastal realms (Harris et al. 2019).

The release of an updated version of the National Wetland Map (NWM 6) is on track for March 2021. Emphasis will be placed on validating the extent and ecological condition of wetlands within Ramsar sites as part of this update.

References:

HARRIS L, BESSINGER M, DAYARAM A, HOLNESS S, KIRKMAN S, LIVINGSTONE T-C, LOMBARD AT, LÜCK-VOGEL M, PFAFF M, SINK KJ, SKOWNO AL and VAN NIEKERK L (2019) Advancing land-sea integration for ecologically meaningful coastal conservation and management. *Biol. Conserv.* 237 81–89. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2019.06.020

Van Niekerk, L., Adams, J.B., Lamberth, S.J., MacKay, F., Taljaard, S., Turpie, J.K., Weerts S. & Raimondo, D.C. (2019) (eds). South African National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: Technical Report. Volume 3: Estuarine Realm. CSIR report number CSIR/SPLA/EM/EXP/2019/0062/A. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria. Report Number: SANBI/NAT/NBA2018/2019/Vol3/A. http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12143/6373.

8.3 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

8.3 Additional information:
Yes, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) is the coordinator and data custodian of the National Wetlands Map version 5, as well as the SAIIAE.

In July 2019, the National Wetland Map was formally designated a nationally important base dataset under the Spatial Data Infrastructure Act, 2003 (Act No.54 of 2003). As formally appointed coordinating custodian, SANBI is under specific obligations to maintain the data and respond to stakeholder requests.

8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
8.4 Additional information: Yes, the inventory is available free of charge for download from SANBI/BGIS: https://bgis.sanbi.org/Projects/Detail/217 , or if not working, the backup: https://drive.google.com/open?id=18yTdYcNLAG59EosmnWfb1cVTsDHrHIZW	

8.5 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed during the last triennium? {1.1.3} a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally Please describe on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s). * 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention	N=Status Deteriorated; O=No Change; P=Status Improved a) P b) N
8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b): Yes, the ecological condition of SA rivers deteriorated (Nel and Driver, 2015); similarly for inland wetlands (Van Deventer et al., 2019) and estuaries (Van Niekerk et al., 2019). Wetlands (inland and estuarine) were found to be the most threatened and yet least protected ecosystem types (National Biodiversity Assessment 2018). South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). 2019. National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: The status of South Africa's ecosystems and biodiversity. Synthesis Report. South African National Biodiversity Institute, an entity of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Pretoria. pp. 1–214 https://www.sanbi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/NBA-Report-2019.pdf	

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=46 000 km² of inland wetlands and E=164 018 km of river length
		E= # Km ^{2} ;; G=More than # Km ^{2}; X= Unknown

8.6

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

Area by type of wetland				Total area by category of wetland
Marine/Coastal	e.g Coral Reefs: 26.5km2	Estuarine transitional waters 1 955.3 km²	Coastal brackish/saline lagoons: 55.8 km²	2 037.6 km²
Inland	e.g Permanent freshwater marshes/swamps: 23 157 Km^2	e.g Non-forested peatlands (includes shrub or open bogs, swamps, fens): 2 163 Km^2	e.g Permanent freshwater lakes: 1 337 Km^2	26 657.14 km² (we also mapped 11462 km² of river extent not included on the left)
Human-made				5 983.9 km²
Total				678.5Km^2

Date of the inventory: 2018-2020

Please note that the above total area reported for subtypes does not add up to the total amount of >46 000 km² wetlands listed as the sum, since a number of subtypes are not listed here for South African aquatic subtypes. Our complete list is as follows from Van Deventer et al., 2020:

TOTAL AREA OF WETLANDS FROM NWM5 PAPER:

Aquatic category:	Area (km²)
Lacustrine	2787.2
Palustrine	14479.3
Arid	9091.6
Estuaries	2011.088
Rivers (extent of some included here)*	11462.3
Artificial	5983.9
Sumtotal area (km²)	45815.39
Coral reefs	26.5
Total area (km²):	45841.89

Coral reefs are reported by SANBI, please see reference below (Sink et al., 2019).
*River ecosystem types are represented by and assessed as lines in South Africa.

Reference or link:

National Wetland Map version 5 mapped inland wetlands, freshwater lakes, some rivers and the estuaries:

Van Deventer, H.; Van Niekerk, L.; Adams, J.; Dinala, M.K.; Gangat, R.; Lamberth, S.J.; Lötter, M.; Mbona, N.; MacKay, F.; Nel, J.L.; Ramjukadh, C-L.; Skowno, A. & Weerts, S.P. 2020. National Wetland Map 5 – An improved spatial extent and representation of inland aquatic

and estuarine ecosystems in South Africa. Water SA, 46(1): 66–79. DOI: https://doi.org/10.17159/wsa/2020.v46.i1.7887.

River length:
Smith-Adao, L., Petersen, C., Nel, J., Silberbauer, M., Scherman, P. & Grenfell, M. Chapter 2: Origin, development and improvement of the river's dataset, in Van Deventer et al. South African National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: Technical Report. Volume 2a: South African Inventory of Inland Aquatic Ecosystems (SAIIAE). Version 3, final released on 3 October 2019. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI): Pretoria, South Africa. Report Number: CSIR report number CSIR/NRE/ECOS/IR/2018/0001/A; SANBI report number http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12143/5847

A paper on the peatland extent is in preparation from which the initial statistic for non-forested peatlands were included:
Grundling, P-L.; Grundling, A.; Van Deventer, H.; Le Roux, J. In prep. Current state, pressures and protection levels of South African peatlands.

Coral Reefs
Chapter 3: Sink KJ, Harris LR, Skowno AL, Livingstone T, Franken M, Porter S, Atkinson LJ, Bernard A, Cawthra H, Currie J, Dayaram A, de Wet W, Dunga LV, Filander Z, Green A, Herbert D, Karenyi N, Palmer R, Pfaff M, Makwela M, Mackay F, van Niekerk L, van Zyl W, Bessinger M, Holness S, Kirkman SP, Lamberth S, Lück-Vogel M. 2019. Chapter 3: Marine Ecosystem Classification and Mapping. In: Sink KJ, van der Bank MG, Majiedt PA, Harris LR, Atkinson LJ, Kirkman SP, Karenyi N (eds). 2019. *South African National Biodiversity Assessment 2018 Technical Report Volume 4: Marine Realm*. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria. South Africa. http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12143/6372
Sink KJ, van der Bank MG, Majiedt PA, Harris LR, Atkinson LJ, Kirkman SP, Karenyi N (eds). 2019. *South African National Biodiversity Assessment 2018 Technical Report Volume 4: Marine Realm*. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria. South Africa. http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12143/6372

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

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

Guidance on information on national wetland extent, to be provided in Target 8 "National Wetlands Inventory" of the National Report Form can be consulted at:
https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidance-on-information-on-national-wetland-extent

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

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

With regards to the % of change in the last three years:
At the moment, annual monitoring of wetland extent is lacking, and hence this can not be adequately reported. However, with the current statistics from the SDG 6.6.1a app (derived from the Global Surface Water data of Pekel et al., 2016) and the Land cover data of 1990 and 2013 (GeoTerraImage Pty Ltd, 2013/4), it appears as if there is a general decline in the extent of surface water bodies, which comprises only 11% of all aquatic surface waters (Van Deventer, in review). The Global Surface Water product underreports South African wetlands by 87%, and showed an decrease of 20% in permanently inundated systems since the reference period (2000-2004), and increase of 20% in seasonally inundated systems and an decrease in 11% in the maximum extent of reservoirs. The South African land cover data of GeoTerraImage (2013/4) shows a decrease of 25% in open surface water bodies over the 23-year period.

Technical, financial and governmental challenges:

Technically the automated detection and monitoring of palustrine and arid wetland ecosystems, and changes in all wetlands (including lacustrine and estuarine systems) are particularly challenging. Traditional sattelite images have been limited in the accurate detection of the extent and characteristics of these systems while also being costly. Recently freely available sensors, such as Sentinel-1 & -2 are currently being tested by the CSIR for their sensitivity in the detection of the state and transformation types of different wetland ecosystem types.

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

9.1 Additional information:

As indicated in 1.1. above: South Africa is in the process of developing a National Joint Framework on Wetlands for the management of wetlands in South Africa. This is a joint initiative between the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation and the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. The development of the Joint Wetlands Framework will be the first step towards the development of a National Wetlands Policy for the management and conservation of wetlands in South Africa.

9.2 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.5}{1.3.6}	D A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned

9.2 Additional information:

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

9.3 Additional information:
SA has recognised the extensive and rapid loss of their wetlands and the effect that continued loss of these water resources will have on the future water security in the country. The National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) calls for all water resources to be managed within an IWRM framework. Core to this framework is the prioritisation of key wetlands, which supply important services, for rehabilitation and protection. The National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS) as well as the National Water and Sanitation Master plan (NW&S MP) are key strategies for the water sector in South Africa and both recognise wetlands as key ecological infrastructure that need to be protected and restored. One of the key actions going forward will be for the improved protection of South Africa's Strategic Water Source Areas (SWSA's). Water resources related to these areas are assigned a high level of protection not just from an ecological perspective but also from a socio economic importance.

The inclusion of wetlands as importance ecological infrastructure in basin scale strategies and plans is a growing field in South Africa. This field currently encompasses continuing research on wetlands and the benefits they provide by the South African Water Research Commission, the continued development of more accurate datasets, and case studies to illustrate the approaches that can be followed to integrate wetlands into River Basin Management. One such study is the current **Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security (EI4WS)** initiative which will take important steps towards demonstrating the return on investment in ecological infrastructure in terms of actual water-related benefits in South Africa over the long term

Wetland and catchment Forums have been established in all nine provinces of South Africa to assist with governance and provide guidelines and support for wetland management at a local level.

9.4 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.7.2}{1.7.3}	**A** A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned

9.4 Additional information:
CEPA is a well established tool in South Africa and has improved signficantly since the introduction of the National Environmental Management Acts and its Specific Environmental Management Act (i.e. Protected Areas Act, Biodiversity Act, Air Quality Act and Intergrated Coast Management Act) including National Water Act. In South Africa, CEPA is implemeted through various platforms inter alia, through the Annual National Wetland Indaba conference, in which government departments, research and scientific institutions, Non-Governmental Organisation and Conservation Authorities meet to showcase on the work being done on wetlands and how wetlands management can be improved. During the World Wetlands Day, South Africa also reach out to vulnerable communities to raise awarness on the importance of wetlands to human livelihoods.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) through Environmental Education Centres that are located in the National Botanical Gardens, skills development, education and awareness programmes are facilitated with schools and communities to increase knowledge about biodiversity and wetlands. SANBI also hosts students and interns under its various work programme as a means to grow capacity in the biodiversity and wetlands sector in South Africa.

South Africa is also implementing programmes such as Working for Wetlands, Working for Water, Working for Ecosystems and LandCare programme which also have specific education and awareness factor built in them with the aim of improving community skills development and poverty eradication.

Several tertiary institutions in collboration with government also offer short courses and modules which have a mandate on wetlands conservation and management (wetland delineation). In addition, the South African Wetland Society also support wetland awareness and professional accreditation. The South Africa Wetland Society develops and maintains professional standards and best management practices of subscribed wetland practitioners in South Africa in order to promote wetland sciences, conservation and management through accreditation, collaboration and self-regulation of all society members.

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

9.5 Additional information:
South Africa's National Climate Change Response Policy (NCCRP); encourages the conservation, rehabilitation and restoration of natural ecosystems such as wetlands and mangroves.

Working for Wetlands Programme through, funding SANBI's Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, is engaged in several projects with a focus in improving understanding of wetlands and wetland management and plans to publish user-friendly publications to interpret and communicate the research.

The Agricultural Research Council- Soil, Climate and Water and Agricultural Engineering (ARC-SCW&AE) focus on wetland and peatland research projects. The results of these projects contribute towards policies and guidelines in the wise use of the natural resource. For example: Peatland Protocol lead by the Department of Water and Sanitation.

The ARC- SCW&AE developed a national peat fire monitoring framework based on the integration of various data sources, hoes the national Peatland Database and currently we work on a project to develop guidelines for the prevention, management and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands; as well as protocols in controlling peat fires.

References:

Abd Elbasit, M.A.M. Abutaleb, K., Grundling A. T. and Chauke. M. 2020. Multi-platform remote sensing tools for peat fire detection and monitoring. Water Research Commission, Pretoria. WRC Project No. K5/2836.

GRUNDLING A.T., GROOTJANS A.P., GRUNDLING P. AND PRICE J.S. 2016. Peatland Types and Tropical Swamp Forests on the Maputaland Coastal Plain (South Africa). In: *The Wetland Book* Eds, Dordrecht, 166. Springer Science + Business.

GRUNDLING A.T., GRUNDLING P. AND VAN ROOYEN L. 2018. National peatland database. *Water Wheel* 17 (3): 38-40.

GRUNDLING, P-L. & GRUNDLING, A. 2019. Appendix C: Peat Pressures, in Van Deventer *et al. South African National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: Technical Report. Volume 2b: Inland Aquatic Realm*. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Pretoria, South Africa. CSIR report number CSIR/NRE/ECOS/IR/2019/0004/A and SANBI handle report no. http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12143/6230.

Grundling, P., Grundling, A.T., Pretorius, L., Mulders, J. And Mitchell S. 2017. South African Peatlands: Ecohydrological characteristics and socio-economic value. Water Research Commission, Pretoria. WRC Report No. 2346/1/17. 182pp.

GRUNDLING P., GRUNDLING A.T., DE VILLIERS L. AND VAN DEVENTER, H. 2019. Extinguishing subsurface fires in peatlands with the sprouting water pressure method. *Water Wheel* 18 (5): 38-41.

9.6	Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.4} {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

9.6 Additional information:
The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development has a Conservation of Agriculture Resources Act, 43 of 1983 that regulates the use and management of wetlands on farms.

Working for Wetlands Programme through, funding SANBI's Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, is engaged in several projects with a focus in improving understanding of wetlands and wetland management and plans to publish user-friendly publications to interpret and communicate the research.

ARC- SCW&AE has been involved in the training of agricultural extension practitioners in three provinces (North-West, Eastern Cape and Limpopo Provinces) on Climate Smart Agricultural skills. Training manuals include information on the wise use of water and wetlands for agriculture.

Reference:
Grundling, A.T. and Masekwana, N. (5 Feb 2020) Climate Smart Agriculture. Draft Training Manual. Climate-Smart Water Resources and Wetlands. Agricultural Research Council-Soil, Climate and Water and Agricultural Engineering.

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

9.7 Additional information:

Working for Wetlands Programme through, funding SANBI's Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, is engaged in several projects with a focus in improving understanding of wetlands and wetland management and plans to publish user-friendly publications to interpret and communicate the research. The following researches as per the above have been undertaken:

a) agriculture-wetland interactions

GRUNDLING A.T., 2005. Development of a preliminary inventory and status assessment of wetlands in the northern Tshwane study area. *In:* A Venter, HP Prinsloo, AT Grundling & RO Barnard. Environmentally-sustainable Urban Agriculture Framework with specific reference to Natural Open Spaces.

GRUNDLING A.T., 2013. Traditional water sources - Lifeline in a time of need. *Water Wheel* Special: 26-29.

GRUNDLING A.T. and GRUNDLING P. (2014). Agriculture, Mining and Wetlands Interaction. SA Grain, 16 (11), 40-43.

GRUNDLING A.T., VAN DEN BERG E.C. & PRICE J.S., 2013. Assessing the distribution of wetlands over wet and dry periods and land-use change on the Maputaland Coastal Plain, north-eastern KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. *South African Journal of Geomatics* 2: 120-139.

KELBE BE, GRUNDLING AT, PRICE JS. 2016. Modelling water-table depth in a primary aquifer to identify potential wetland hydrogeomorphic settings on the northern Maputaland Coastal Plain, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. ***Hydrogeology Journal*.** 24 (1): 249-265.

b) climate change

Grundling, A.T. and Engelbrecht, C (2019) Determining climate change aspects on the ecosystem resilience of headwater wetlands in two catchments, Eswatini (Swaziland) and South Africa. Interim Progress Report (Deliverable 4) WRC Project No K5/2831. Agricultural Research Council-Soil, Climate and Water and Agricultural Engineering Report GW/A/2019/06.

GRUNDLING, P., GRUNDLING, A.T. & TERERAI, F. 2019. Wetland ecological infrastructure: making a case for restoration in the face of climate change and rising costs. Chapter 1 in: *The Sustainable Water Resource Handbook - South Africa Volume 9*. alive2green: Cape Town, pp. 14-24. (https://issuu.com/alive2green/docs/water_9_web).

c) valuation of ecoystem services

GRUNDLING, P., GRUNDLING, A.T., PRETORIUS, L., MULDERS, J. AND MITCHELL S. 2017. South African peatlands: ecohydrological characteristics and socio-economic value. Water Research Commission, Pretoria. WRC Report No. 2346/1/17. 182pp

9.8 Has your country submitted a request for Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention, Resolution XII.10 ?	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
9.8 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate How many request have been submitted): One request for the City of Cape Town for accreditation as a Wetland City of the Ramsar Convention.	

9.9 Has your country made efforts to conserve small wetlands in line with Resolution XIII. 21?	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
9.9 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate what actions have been implemented): Small wetlands as defined on the resolution have been included as part of all wetland planning. The National Biodiversity Assessment included all sizes and types of wetlands in the assessment.	

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)	D A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned
10.1 Additional information: (If yes please indicate the case studies or projects documenting information and experiences concerning culture and wetlands).	

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	a) D
a) stakeholders, including local communities and indigenous people are represented on National Ramsar Committees or similar bodies	b) C
b) involvement and assistance of indigenous peoples and community-based groups, wetland education Centre's and non-governmental organizations with the necessary expertise to facilitate the establishment of participatory approaches; (Resolution VII. 8) (Action 6.1.5)	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned
10.2 Additional information: (If the answer is "yes" please indicate the use or aplication of the guidelines)	

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)	D A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned
10.3 Additional information:	

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

11.1 Have ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands been researched in your country, recorded in documents like State of the Environment reporting, and the results promoted? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii	C1 A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; C1=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
11.1 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, how many wetlands and their names): An Evidence-Based Approach to Measuring the Costs and Benefits of Changes in Aquatic Ecosystem Services. **Report No. TT 726/17** Dineo Maila; Joseph Mulders Nuveshen Naidoo; Jackie Crafford; Steve Mitchell; Kyle Harris Working for Wetlands Programme through, funding SANBI's Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, is engaged in several projects with a focus in improving understanding of wetlands and wetland management and plans to publish user-friendly publications to interpret and communicate the research.	

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	**A** A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

11.2 Additional information:
As indicated under 1.1: The South African government create and operationalize the Expanded Public Works Programme. Under this programme there are a number of sub-programmes that focus on labour intensive restoration, rehabilitation and management of natural resources including wetlands ecosystem. A specific sub-programme titled Working for Wetlands, has been operational since 2000. The programme focuses on restoration, protection and wise use of wetlands whilst at the same time providing employment creation, skills transfer and enterprise development especially to the disadvantaged youth and women.

The Working for Wetlands programme commenced in year 2000. Since 2004, the programme invested over 1.3 billion rand in the rehabilitation of over 1,500 wetlands and so far, the programme generated 37,000 jobs with 3.3 million person days (incl. 278,000days of training.

Other programmes includes the Working for Water which aims at controlling invasive alien species while promoting resources conservation and poverty reduction. The main goal of this programme is to recover and conserve scarce water resources, other components include the conservation of biological diversity and the building and empowerment of local communities through skills transfer and creation of jobs.

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
11.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names): The management plans of all Ramsar sites in the country have been developed in accordance with the Ramsar Handbook on managing wetlands, and followed the recommended structure an content of a management plan for Ramsar site or other wetland in that handbook. Evaluation of socio- economic and cultural values of wetland are integral parts of the recommended structure.	

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
11.4 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):	

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** A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
12.1 Additional information: The Working for Wetlands programme is implemented country wide and within protected areas which also includes the Ramsar sites and other national wetlands. The Working for Wetlands programme has developed five-year strategic plans for each of the provinces. The strategic plans contain a priority map of relative importance of catchments for wetland rehabilitation based on the biodiversity value, functional value (ecosystem services), rehabilitation potential and human livelihood value. This means all wetlands prioritised for rehabilitation are of relative higher importance for climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction and livelihoods.	

12.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been effectively implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i	**A** A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
12.2 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if available the extent of wetlands restored): The Working for Wetlands restoration programme has been effectively implemented since inception. Since 2004, the programmes has invested over R1.3billion in wetlands conservation; generating over 37000 jobs, and 3.3million person days of work, 278000 of which were in skills development in the programme participants. In the last triennium the programme invested over 251 million in the conservation of about 230 wetlands, generating over 7600 jobs, 353000pdays of work, 39000 of which were in skills development	

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

f) International cooperation	A
g) Implementation and support	A
12.3 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, the progress in implementation: Threat assessments (key elements include conceptual model, key threats, management recommendations) website – easy to read version, strong referencing to recent research evidence Contact SANBI FBU for more info Research programme on palmiet peatlands (x students etc), hope to convene additional into the future Contact SANBI FBU for more info NBA Chapter and Appendix	

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
13.1 Additional information: Yes, they are applied. The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries has a dedicated Branch responsible for Regulatory Compliance and Sector Monitoring. https://www.environment.gov.za/branches/regulatorycompliance_sectormonitoring	

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Cases
13.2 Additional information: South Africa has advanced legislations and regulations in place that are regularly implemented to protect, conserve and sustain natural resources including wetlands. These includes the National Environmental Management Act 108 of 1998 and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014. For more details see https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/legislations/nema_eia2014regulations_g38282.pdf	

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	**D** A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
15.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative): The following Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states has endorsed the SADC Regional Initiative. These includes, namely South Africa, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Eswatini. The Region is in the process of finalising the the proposal for the Initiative (SADC and Ocean Islands)	

15.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}	**B** A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
15.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):	

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

16.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i a) At the national level b) Sub-national level c) Catchment/basin level d) Local/site level (Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below)	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned a) D b) A c) B d) A

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

Wetlands are part of the Environmental Awarness Programmes that are implemented by various sector departments, public entities, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Scientific and Research Institutions across the country.

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 b) at other wetlands	E= # centres; F=Less than #; G=More than #; X=Unknown; y=Not Relevant; a) F b) X

16.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):

16.3 Does the Contracting Party: a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management? {4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned a) A b) A

16.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):

South Africa has established the National Ramsar Committee which meets twice a year. All activities, decisions, interventions and other issues related to Ramsar sites and other national wetlands are discussed. The Committee promotes integrated participation of all stakeholders involves on wetlands matters.

In addition, stakeholders are also involves through Provincial Wetland Forums which meet four times a year to plan, impement and review on activiries related to wetlands matters.

	A
16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

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

The Ramsar National Committee in South Africa was established in 2009. Its membership includes National and Provincial government departments, public entities, scientific institutions, academia and community propertry organisation.

Some of the Committee functions includes the following:

a. Advises the Minister on activities and orher matters of the implementation of the Convention and COP Resolutions.
b. Serves as a platform for the national programmes relating to CEPA and the work of the STRP. These incudes inter alia: advice and assit the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ramsar Management Authorities to:
    I. To raise public awareness of the Ramsar sites and the Convention.
    II. Identification of training and capacity building needs
    III. Identification of research gaps and needs
c. Coordination of the management of the Ramsar Sites in South Africa;
d. Create a platform for knowledge and information sharing
e. Network and exchange experiences relating to the management of Ramsar site;
f. Provide mechanism for resource mobilisation;
g. Provide guidance and scientific advice on the removal of the sites from the Montreux record and the degination of new Ramsar sites;
h. Provide advice on general management perfomance and monitoring of Ramsar sites;
i. Undertake *ad hoc* tasks related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention;
j. Assist with the identification and recommendation for the need to develop a policy, strategy, plna, framework and guidance etc., for the purpose of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention; and
k. Provide expert input to National Reports, and South Africa postion on draft resolution for the COPs.

	A
16.5 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

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

Yes, there is a National Wetland Task Group which is led by the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation.

a) Established in 2005, the WTG is an inter-departmental forum, which provides a platform where members can obtain feedback, and discuss wetland related research, challenges, solutions, experiences, and ideas. It aims to ensure inter-departmental awaerenss and alignment regarding wetland initiatives.
b) It is membership includes scientific and research institutions, government departments, and governmental research institutions a such as Water Research Comission, Council for Scenitifc and Industrial Research, South Africa National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI),.
c) Although private consultants, tertiary institutions and NGOs are not standing members, provision is made for such representatives to use the WTG when the need arises as a platform to discuss wetland management related matters with the led government departments as is suitable to the mandate of task group.
d) The National Wetland Task Group has met three times since the Ramsar COP 13. This is because the group meet twice a year unless there are ad hoc matters.

SANBI convenes a National Wetland Ecosystem Classification Committee
SANBI and DWS lead a Joint National Wetland Data Management Committee

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) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned a) A b) C c) A

16.6 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please describe what mechanisms are in place):

Yes, through the Provincial Wetland Forums mentioned above. These forums meet four times and year (on quaterly basis).

16.7 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP13? {4.1.8}	A A=Yes; B=No

16.7 Additional information:

This year, South Africa, through the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) celebrated the 2020 WWD jointly with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), in collaboration with the Limpopo Department of Education, Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD), Water Research Council (WRC), South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Vhembe and Waterberg District Municipalities. The event was meant to raise public awareness on the value of wetlands and their importance on biodiversity and livelihoods, as well as to educate learners about the importance of the wetlands and what can be done to protect it. The 2020 WWD was celebrated on 2 February 2020 in South Africa under the theme "Wetlands and Biodiversity".

Over 33 Primary Schools within Vhembe and Waterberg District Municipalities were visited one week prior to the 2020 WWD event commemoration for awareness raising campaigns. 2.1.2. The campaign was aimed at raising awareness on wetlands in line with the WWD 2020 theme "Wetlands and Biodiversity". Furthermore, the campaign motivated learners to actively participate in environmental management related matters such as waste management, climate change, water pollution, protection of wetlands and protection of biodiversity. Learners were expected to create a poster showing the importance of wetlands on human livelihoods and biodiversity as well as the impacts of human activities on wetlands, definition of a wetland and examples of wetlands of international importance found in South Africa and Intervention measures to minimise/combat the degradation of wetland ecosystem.

On 02 February 2020, The Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries also issued a Media Statement on the commemoration of the 2020 World Wetlands Day. The statement can be assessed on the following link:
https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/commemorationof2020wetlandsday

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

16.8 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):
Freshwater Ecosystem Network workshop is hosted yearly. FEN events included wetland discussion

Wetlands are part of the Environmental Awarness Programmes that are implemented by various sector departments, public entities, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Scientific and Research Institutions across the country. This awareness are not only done during the World Wetlands Day but through out the year to educate communities about the importance of wetlands ecosystems.

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

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

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

17.3 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i	**Z** A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
17.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP12):	

17.4 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii	Z A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant; Z=Not Applicable
17.4 Additional information:	

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** A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
17.5 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP12):	

17.6 Has any financial support been provided by your country to the implementation of the Strategic Plan?	**B** A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
17.6 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities):	

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

18.1 Additional information: The Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and World Heritage Convention they all sits on the National Ramsar Committee and Wetlands Task Group as well as Provincial Forums.

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

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).	**X** A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
18.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the agency (es) or IOP (s) and the type of assistance received):	

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}	**B** A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
18.4 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):	

18.5 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

18.5 Additional information:
In 2015, Birdlife South Africa published two documents relevant to Ramsar sites, which are also important Bird and Biodiversity Areas.

1. Marnewick MD, Retief EF, Theron NT, Wright DR, Anderson TA. 2015. Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas of South Africa. Johannesburg: Birdlife South Africa.

2. Marnewick MD, Retief EF, Theron NT, Wright DR. 2015. South Africa Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas Status Report 2015. Johannesburg: Birdlife South Africa.

Many publications.

https://bgis.sanbi.org/Projects/Detail/217 , or if not working, the backup:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=18yTdYcNLAG59EosmnWfb1cVTsDHrHIZW

18.6 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i	**A** A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
18.6 Additional information: The Orange River Ramsar site is shared by Namibia and South Africa Makulelele wetlands fall within the Limpopo River floodplain, which forms the border with Zimbabwe and Mozambique, also a potentially associated with the trans-frontier regional aquifer system	

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	**B** A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; Y=Not Relevant
18.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):	

18.8 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii	**A** A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
18.8 Additional information:	

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

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

19.2 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes?	**A** A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
19.2 Additional information: If you answer yes to the above please provide information on which mechanisms and materials: Various Universities in South Africa offers training, short courses and modules on wetland-related matters. Wetlands issues are also included on Universities curriculum on Degrees such as Environmental Science, Environmental Management, Nature Conservation, Mining and Environmental Geology and Earth Sciences in Hydrology and Water Resources.	

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 b) at other wetlands	a) O b) O E=# opportunities; F=Less than #; G= More than #; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
19.3 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):	

19.4 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii	**D** A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
19.4 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):	

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

Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

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

Target 1. *Wetland benefits are featured in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.*
[Reference to Aichi Target 2]

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021		
Additional information:		

Target 2. *Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.*
{Reference to Aichi Targets 7 and 8], [Sustainable Development Goal 6, Indicator 6.3.1]

Planning of National Targets

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

contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021		
Additional information:		

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

Planning of National Targets

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

National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

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

Target 5. *The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective, planning and integrated management {2.1.}.*
[Reference to Aichi Target 6,11, 12]

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021		
Additional information:		

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021		
Additional information:		

Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

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

Target 8. *National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i.*
[Reference to Aichi Targets 12, 14, 18, 19].

Planning of National Targets

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

Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021		
Additional information:		

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer

Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021		
Additional information:		

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021		
Additional information:		

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target :		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021		
Additional information:		

Target 13. *Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.*
[Reference to Aichi Targets 6 and 7].

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals		

Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

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

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021		
Additional information:		

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

Planning of National Targets

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

Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021		
Additional information:		

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer

Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021		
Additional information:		

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021		
Additional information:		

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

Guidance for filling in this section

1. Contracting Parties can opt to provide additional information specific to any or all of their designated Ramsar Sites.
2. The only indicator questions included in this section are those from Section 3 of the COP14 NRF which directly concern Ramsar Sites.
3. In some cases, to make them meaningful in the context of reporting on each Ramsar Site separately, some of these indicator questions and/or their answer options have been adjusted from their formulation in Section 3 of the COP14 NRF.
4. Please include information on only one site in each row. In the appropriate columns please add the name and official site number (from the Ramsar Sites Information Service).
5. For each 'indicator question', please select one answer from the legend.
6. A final column of this Annex is provided as a 'free text' box for the inclusion of any additional information concerning the Ramsar Site.

Name of Contracting Party:

List of indicator questions:

5.6 Has the Ramsar Site been assessed regarding the effectiveness of its management (i.e. sites with either a formal management plan) or management via other relevant means where they exist e.g through existing actions for appropriate wetland management ?

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19?

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

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

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