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“Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future”
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Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention: Global implementation

Introduction

1. The present report covers the implementation of the Convention from the closing of the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP12) on 9 June 2015, until 18 January 2018. It is published in accordance with Rules 9.a) and 26.3 of the Rules of Procedure, and based on the national reports submitted by Contracting Parties to COP13 to assess the progress and challenges in implementing the Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan for 2016-2024. The activities of the Secretariat to implement its Work Plan are presented in document COP13 Doc.11.2.
2. The data and findings are drawn from the 140 reports received by 18 January 2018. As of July 2018, 147 national reports had been received in total; 96 national reports were submitted through the online reporting system and 51 as Microsoft Word files.
3. It is important to highlight that the number of national reports submitted by Contracting Parties has increased over the last three triennia, with the highest number being submitted for COP13. Given that Ramsar in 2014 had the highest rate of reporting out of ten Conventions¹, this suggests that the Convention has one of the highest rates of reporting of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).
4. National reports received can be consulted on the Ramsar website [here](#).
5. Besides assessing the progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan in the last triennium, the present report presents the main contributions of the Convention to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs; see Annex 4 *How the Ramsar Strategic Plan supports the SDGs and Aichi Targets* for a summary of the links between the different goals). The Ramsar Secretariat's report *Wetlands and the SDGs: Scaling up wetland conservation, wise use and restoration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals* highlights the critical role of wetlands in relation to the SDGs and can be consulted at: <https://www.ramsar.org/document/wetlands-and-the-sdgs>.
6. Resolution XII.2 on *The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024* encourages Contracting Parties in paragraph 22 “to develop and submit to the Secretariat on or before December 2016, and

¹ Environmental Conventions Index. Center for Governance and Sustainability. Ivanova 2014. John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston

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”.

7. Accordingly, 11% of Contracting Parties (9 from Africa, 5 from Asia, 3 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 2 from Europe and 1 from Oceania) submitted their national targets (Section 4 *Optional annex on national targets*) to the Secretariat by the December 2016 deadline. As indicated at the 53rd meeting of the Standing Committee, the limited number of Parties providing information did not allow for statistical inference. By the deadline of 18 January 2018 for submission of full national reports to COP13, 47% of Parties that submitted reports had indicated their priorities. The priority targets identified by these Parties, main outcomes and the resources available to them are summarized in Annex 3.
8. Where possible, the evolution of the implementation of the Convention over a longer period has been analysed by comparing indicators provided in national reports to successive meetings of the Conference of the Parties since COP10 in 2008. For the analysis of more recent indicators, the findings of the 140 national reports to COP13 have been compared with those of the 131 national reports submitted for COP12.
9. The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 established 14 priority areas of focus for the Convention over the nine-year period. 19 targets and 35 indicators were identified and cross referenced to these priority areas.
10. Analysis of the progress reported against the indicators and targets of the Strategic Plan revealed that the main progress achieved by Contracting Parties has related to inventories of invasive species, wetlands policies, increase of the Ramsar Site network and World Wetland Day activities (See Annex 1).
11. The areas in which less progress has been made are: the incorporation of wetland issues/benefits into productive sectors (water resource, mining, energy, industry); the assessment of water quality and quantity for wetlands; removal of perverse incentives; reports to the Secretariat on Article 3.2; and implementation of guidelines on cultural values.
12. The areas in which there appears to have been a major decrease in implementation since COP12 are:
 - private sector activities for the conservation and wise use of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands;
 - establishment or review of national policies or guidelines on the control and management of invasive wetland species;
 - assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management;
 - governance of wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management;
 - projects that contribute to poverty alleviation;
 - restoration and rehabilitation programmes;
 - operation of national/Ramsar wetlands committees; and
 - financial assistance and capacity building.

Main achievements since COP12 and priorities for 2019-2021

13. The topics presented below follow the structure of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 (adopted through Resolution XII.2).

Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

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, and aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level (Indicator 1.1 {1.3.2} {1.3.3})

- **With the exception of strategies relating to biodiversity, the incorporation of wetland benefits into national strategies and planning processes is progressing slowly, if at all.**
14. Most Contracting Parties have incorporated wetlands in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans drawn up under the CBD (83% of the Parties that submitted their national report in 2018) and in national policies or strategies for wetland management (62% of Parties); these figures are similar to those reported for COP12.
 15. In the water sector, 59% of the responding Parties confirm that they have incorporated wetlands in water resource management and water efficiency plans (a decrease from the 70% reporting this to COP12), and 46% confirm that they have plans for pollution control and management and wastewater management and water quality.
 16. The incorporation of wetland benefits in plans relating to agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries has also been relatively low, as around 48% of Contracting Parties have taken actions on these matters.
 17. The incorporation of wetland benefits into plans for coastal and marine resource management has declined since COP12; 43% of the Parties report in 2018 that they have taken action on this matter, compared with 53% of Parties in 2015.
 18. Concerning the integration of wetland benefits into poverty eradication strategies, progress for COP13 is similar to that for COP12, with 30% of the Parties in 2018 reporting having taken action.
 19. Regarding the sectors listed in Target 1, there has been little progress in the energy, mining, urban development, infrastructure and industry sectors, as 27% of the responding Parties confirm the incorporation of wetlands issues into national policies for these sectors.
 20. Preventing, stopping and reversing the loss and degradation of wetlands is one of the priority areas of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024. The largest losses of wetlands continue to result from unsustainable agriculture, forestry and extractive industries, the impacts of population growth and changes in land use that override environmental considerations. Addressing and engaging the drivers behind these pressures on wetlands is a condition for limiting their impacts, but also requires that wetland resources and wetland ecosystem benefits are valued and integrated within sectoral policies and decision-making processes.
 21. Action by Parties on Target 1 also contribute to Aichi Target 2: “By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.”

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 (Indicators 2.1, 2.3)

- **The application of measures for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands is limited.**
22. Seventeen percent of the Parties report that they have assessed the quantity and quality of water available and required by wetlands in response to the *Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands*, which were adopted in 2002 (see Resolutions VIII.1 and VIII.2). However, 47% of the Parties report that they are in the process of doing so.
 23. Nearly a third of the Parties (31%) confirm that the sustainability of water use has improved at their Ramsar Sites, in the context of the ecosystem requirements in the corresponding water catchment areas. A further 35% of the Parties confirm that this is the case for at least some of their Sites. As this question was asked for the first time for COP13, progress can be monitored in the future against this baseline.
 24. Under the previous Strategic Plan (for 2009-2015), all Parties were expected to have made available, by 2015, the Ramsar guidance on water allocation and management for ecosystems to support decision-making on water resource management. Further effort is still needed to provide the required guidance, and thus improve water use according to ecosystem requirements. The efforts of Parties against this indicator also contribute to the implementation of Resolution XII.12, on *Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future*, Aichi Target 7: “By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity” and Target 8: “By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity”.

Target 3 - The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands (Indicators 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)

- **The extent of activities undertaken by the private sector for the conservation, wise use and management of Ramsar Sites and wetlands in general is declining.**
 - **The implementation of incentive measures that encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands remains low.**
25. 46% of Parties report that the private sector is undertaking activities for the conservation, wise use and management of Ramsar Sites. For COP12, 62% of Parties reported this.
 26. 41% of Parties report that the private sector is undertaking activities for the conservation, wise use and management of wetlands in general (COP12: 60% of Parties). Under the Strategic Plan for 2009-2015, increased private sector engagement in the wise use of wetlands and in the management of Ramsar Sites was expected by 2015; it is not clear from the national reports why such activities have declined.
 27. According to COP13 national reports, 52% of Parties have taken actions to implement incentive measures that encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands (COP12: 50%), and 12% of

Parties report that they have planned actions. Examples of the actions mentioned are: establishment of a water users' association; specific environmental laws; national environmental funds; biodiversity stewardship programmes; establishment of an eco-compensation mechanism for wetlands; voluntary agreements between land users and official authorities; government grant schemes for protected areas; conservation of endangered species; and wetland restoration.

28. According to the national reports for both COP12 and COP13, 37% of Parties have taken actions to remove perverse incentive measures that discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands. 17% of Parties reported, to both COP13 and COP12, having planned such actions. Under the Strategic Plan for 2009-2015, better design and implementation of incentive measures of relevance to wetlands, and better monitoring and assessment of both positive and perverse incentives affecting wetlands, were expected to be in place in all Parties by 2015.
29. Steps taken by Parties in relation to these indicators contribute to Aichi Target 4: "By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits"; and Target 3: "By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions."

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 (Indicators 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4)

- **Progress in the reviewing of national policies on invasive wetland species is slow.**
30. Concerning invasive alien species, 40% of Contracting Parties have reported to COP13 that they have a national inventory. This is a higher percentage than for COP12 (34%). However, 26% of Contracting Parties have established or reviewed national policies or guidelines on invasive wetland species (COP12: 36%). The reason for this decrease is not evident from the reports.
 31. 19% of Contracting Parties have responded to the question about species being controlled through management; they report a total of 879 species being controlled in this way. Their actions include: actions to control and exterminate invasive alien species and potential alien species; regulations for specific species; establishment of national monitoring systems and management plans; eradication procedures; commercial fisheries; and fishing tournaments. Eleven percent of Parties indicate having taken actions to assess the effectiveness of programmes to control invasive alien species in wetlands. These two indicators are new, so progress can be assessed in the reporting cycle for COP14.
 32. In terms of Ramsar Sites, 28% of all designated Sites (663) present threats from invasive alien species or other problematic species.
 33. The above actions contribute directly to Aichi Target 9: "By 2020 invasive alien species prevented and controlled", and in particular to indicators related to the number of species,

policy responses, legislation and management plans to control and prevent spread of invasive alien species.

34. This indicator is also very relevant to the SDGs, in particular SDG 15: “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss” and Target 15.5: “Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.”
35. Given the short timeframe to achieve the Aichi Targets and the SDGs, there is a need to strengthen actions and coordinate efforts to make effective progress on this target.

Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

Target 5 - The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management (Indicators 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.9)

- **The effective planning and integrated management of Ramsar Sites shows no real progress.**
36. 84% of Contracting Parties reporting for COP13 report a total of 1,146 Ramsar Sites with management plans, and 82% report that a management plan is being implemented, for a total of 1,123 Ramsar Sites. For COP12, the comparable figures were 86% of Parties (1,107 Sites) and 76% of Parties respectively. According to the Ramsar Sites Information Service, 48% of the current 2,315 designated Ramsar Sites (1,120) have a management plan, and it is reported as effectively implemented at 37% (860) of the Sites.
 37. It is not known whether the higher percentages reported by Contracting Parties for COP13 of Sites with a management plan and the plan implemented are real or whether they reflect the lack of updated information on Ramsar Sites submitted to the Secretariat or that updates of Sites are being reviewed by the Secretariat or the Contracting Party.
 38. The percentage of Parties for which all Ramsar Sites have been assessed regarding their management decreased from 59% (COP12) to 29% (COP13); and 23% of Parties reported having made assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management. This is a new indicator to assess and monitor for COP14.
 39. Under the Convention, various guidelines and tools are available to Contracting Parties for the management of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands. At COP12, Parties approved Resolution XII.15, on *Evaluation of the management and conservation effectiveness of Ramsar Sites*, which encourages Contracting Parties to promote, and help the authorities responsible for management of Ramsar Sites to develop, an integrated planning, management and evaluation system, to promote the wise use of all their Sites in close alignment with the targets of the Strategic Plan for 2016-2024.
 40. The preparation and implementation of management plans, and assessment of the effectiveness of their management, are fundamental to the wise use of Ramsar Sites.
 41. The related actions taken by Parties also contribute to Aichi Targets: Target 6, on sustainable management of marine living resources; Target 11, on increase and improvement of protected areas; and Target 12, on prevention of extinction.

Target 6 - There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network, in particular under-represented types of wetlands, including in under-represented ecoregions, and transboundary sites

- **The Ramsar Site network continue to grow, contributing to the conservation of under-represented wetland types and the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.**
42. Since COP12, 131 new Ramsar Sites have been added to the List of Wetlands of International Importance, covering a total of 27,769,212 hectares. Of all the Sites on the Ramsar List, 965 (41%) are under-represented wetland types such as coastal wetlands including mangroves-coral reefs, permanent non-forested peatlands (552 Sites or 23%) or permanent forested peatlands (280 Sites or 12%).
 43. Twenty transboundary Ramsar Sites have been established, in line with Article 5 of the Convention. Four of them, three in Europe and one in Africa, have been designated since COP12.
 44. Some countries have made efforts to designate Ramsar Sites that contribute to the integrated management and ecological connectivity of protected areas.
 45. The designation of Ramsar Sites has supported at least 57 countries in the achievement of national targets established under the CBD, that contribute to Aichi Target 11 “Protected areas increased and improved” and other related Aichi Targets.

Target 7 - Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed (Indicator 7.2)

- **The risk of change of ecological character of Ramsar Sites is increasing.**
46. At COP13 (as at COP12) 21% of Parties have reported to the Secretariat all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of their Ramsar Sites, in line with Article 3.2 of the Convention.
 47. 168 Ramsar Sites in the territories of 66 Contracting Parties have “confirmed Article 3.2 files”. The number of reported Sites has increased from the last triennium (144). This may suggest that an increasing number of wetlands are under threat, that Parties or civil society groups are paying closer attention to the potential change in ecological character of Sites, or a combination of these factors.
 48. Of the 168 confirmed Article 3.2 files, 23 cases were closed during the reporting period, leaving the files on 145 Sites still open on 20 June 2018. 49 of these Sites (34%) are included on the Montreux Record. The resolution of the issues at these Sites remains very slow, with the latest Site being taken off the Record in 2015.
 49. As indicated in the report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance, the average time to resolve and close Article 3.2 files is very long, with the time ranging from one to 26 years. As a result of the lack of regular updates and information on potential and confirmed Article 3.2 files from Ramsar Sites, the Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat (through Decision SC52-03) to strengthen its interaction with Contracting Parties regarding the longest-running files, particularly those for which no information had been forthcoming for a long period. Parties are urged to report to the

Secretariat in time for the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee (2019), and subsequently to each meeting of the Standing Committee, their status and any steps taken to address any changes, or likely changes, in their ecological character.

Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands

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 (Indicators 8.1, 8.5 and 8.6)

- **Wetland inventories present limited progress but are fundamental for SDGs.**
 - **Threats to Ramsar Sites continue to increase.**
50. Based on national reports received for COP13, 44% of Contracting Parties have completed national wetland inventories. This finding is very similar to COP12 (47%). North America (67%) and Europe (62%) are the regions with the highest percentage of Parties having completed inventories, in Latin America and the Caribbean 41% of Parties have done so, in Africa 35% and in Asia 30%, the lowest percentage. A further 29% of Parties report that national inventories are in progress.
51. The Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDGs) appointed the Convention Secretariat in November 2017 as co-custodian with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) of Indicator 6.6.1 “Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time”. At its 7th meeting, the IAEG-SDGs decided that UNEP will be responsible for the internationally comparable methodology with national data, regional and global aggregations for Indicator 6.6.1, and the Ramsar Convention will have a separate reporting with the national reporting from the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands based on Ramsar definitions and requirements. The two separate reporting lines to the SDG Global Data base for Indicator 6.6.1 will have a clear delineation of the type of data in each stream. Each co-custodian will be responsible for its respective reporting line and will jointly contribute to the SDG Target 6.6 storyline.
52. Based on the data on extent that 51% of Contracting Parties provided in their national reports for COP13, the Secretariat is working with Parties to complete and refine the information submitted and to identify information that is available in existing inventories but has not been reported. Refinement of the data includes reporting on wetland type using the three main categories in the Ramsar classification: inland, marine and coastal, and human-made wetlands. Through this mechanism, national validated data using accepted international definitions of wetlands will be provided to measure the extent of water-related ecosystems under SDG 6.
53. 61% of Parties report for COP13 that the condition of their Ramsar Sites has not changed during the last triennium; 18% report that it is deteriorating; and 19% that it is improving. At COP12, 53% of Parties reported no change and 19% of Parties that condition was deteriorating.
54. For wetlands in general, 50% of Parties report no change in the condition, 38% that it is deteriorating and 9% that it is improving. At COP12, 41% of Parties reported no change; 41% that the condition was deteriorating; and 11% that the status was improving.
55. As indicated under Target 7 and in the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance, there are many threats to Ramsar

Sites that suggest that the number of threatened Ramsar Sites is considerably higher than reported and therefore that, globally, a high proportion of wetlands are under threat.

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 (Indicators 9.1, 9.3, 9.5)

- **The preparation of wetland policies has increased, however not all Parties seem to have such a policy or similar instrument fully in place yet.**
 - **The water governance and management of wetlands as natural infrastructure integral to water resource management at the river basin scale is declining.**
 - **Wetlands play a critical role in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and represent a major opportunity for countries seeking to meet their targets under the Paris Agreement on climate change.**
56. For COP13, 52% of the Parties report that they have a wetland policy or equivalent instrument that promotes the wise use of wetlands (COP12: 55%).
57. The number of Parties with wetland policies or similar instruments in place has increased since COP10. The number of Contracting Parties (18%) working on the preparation of specific wetland policies seems to be unchanged since COP11 (Annex 1).
58. By 2015, Parties were expected to have a national wetland policy or similar instrument fully in place; however, around 17% of all Parties do not seem to have such a policy in place yet. With the continuing loss of wetlands (40% of wetlands having been lost over the last 40 years), the achievement of Goal 1, “Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan”, requires that Contracting Parties take urgent actions to develop and implement a wetland policy and/or strategy that recognizes wetland problems and includes targeted action to deal with these. A wetland policy also draws considerable attention, particularly of legislators and the public, to wetland issues.
59. At COP13, 63% of the Parties report that wetlands are considered as natural water infrastructure, integrated in water resource management at river-basin scale, while 19% report that their government is planning such integration. At COP12, the percentage of Parties reporting positively to this indicator was higher, at 71%. However, these reports are inconsistent with the responses provided for the inclusion of wetlands in water resource management strategies (Target 1), on which 59% of Parties reported having taken actions to integrate wetlands in water resource management.
60. All Parties had committed, as part of their water governance and management, to be managing wetlands as natural infrastructure integral to water resource management at the river basin scale by 2015. It is important that Parties continue to make efforts to ensure that they include in their planning activities and decision-making processes policies and implementation of integrated water resource management (IWRM) applying an ecosystem-based approach, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning, and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.

61. In the COP13 national reports, 42% of Parties report having established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change, while 29% have partially done so. These results are slightly improved from COP12, when 40% of Parties responded positively.
62. 42 Parties out of 174 that submitted their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015 have included wetland-related mitigation and adaptation measures in their NDCs. Wetlands play a critical role in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and represent a major opportunity for countries seeking to meet their targets under the Paris Agreement on climate change.
63. Parties have adopted a number of Resolutions related to climate change (including Resolution X.24 on *Climate change and wetlands* and Resolution XI.14 on *Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*) and disaster risk reduction (Resolution XII.13 on *Wetlands and disaster risk reduction*) that affirmed the role of healthy wetlands in increasing resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, as well as ensuring climate change responses that would not lead to serious damage to the ecological character of wetlands. Resolution XII.13 encourages Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to integrate wetland-based disaster risk reduction and management into national strategic plans and all relevant policies and planning and environmental and water management at all levels of government.
64. Actions to enhance the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change also contribute to Aichi Target 10: “By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning”; to SDG 13: “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”; and SDG Target 13.2: “Integrate climate change into national policies, strategies and planning”.

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 (Indicators 10.1, 11.3)

- **The application of guidelines for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites seems to be limited.**
65. 36% of Parties have taken into account the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands, including traditional knowledge (provided in 2002 through Resolution VIII.19), for the effective management of wetland sites. However, 45% of Parties report that they have included socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands. This difference suggests that socio-economic and cultural wetland values are often taken into account without specifically referring to Ramsar’s guiding principles. 61% of Parties reported to COP12 that they had included socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands. It is not clear why the inclusion of such values in management planning has declined.

Target 11 - Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated
(Indicators 11.1, 11.2)

- **Progress in the assessment of wetland functions, services and benefits is slow.**
66. 24% of Contracting Parties reporting to COP13 have made an assessment of the ecosystem services of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands (COP12: 19%). A further 44% report for COP13 that they are in the process of doing so (COP12: 42%). However, an analysis of the ecosystem services and values of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands was expected to be achieved by all Parties by 2015.
67. As *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands* (the “TEEB Report”, 2013) indicates, wetlands provide essential water-related services such as clean water for drinking, water for agriculture, cooling water for the energy sector and regulating water quantity (e.g. through flood regulation). However, ecosystem services and wetlands are being degraded at an alarming rate with an enormous social and economic impact (e.g. increased risk of floods, decreased water quality, and impacts on health, cultural identity and livelihoods).
68. Wetlands play a key role in efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, and therefore the full value of water and wetlands needs to be recognized and integrated into decision-making in order to meet social, economic and environmental needs
69. This indicator is also directly related to Aichi Target 2: “By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies.” Therefore, actions taken by Parties on this matter contribute not only to the commitments to Ramsar Strategic Plan but the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the CBD.
70. Implementing wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation or to food and water security plans remains a challenge. For COP13, 33% of Parties report that they do so (COP12: 42%). The reason for the decline is not clear.
71. Steps by Parties to develop and implement wetland programmes and projects that contribute to local and national poverty eradication objectives and food and water security plans are important, as they are directly related to SDG 2: “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”; and Aichi Target 2: “By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes”.

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
(Indicators 12.1, 12.2)

- **Progress on restoration is declining.**
72. For COP13, 54% of Parties report that they have identified priority sites for wetland restoration, (COP12: 70%). 25% of Parties report that they have taken partial actions on this matter, and 5% have planned actions. From the information provided in the national reports the reason for the decline is not clear, particularly as all Parties were expected to have identified priority sites for

restoration, and at least half of Parties to have restoration projects underway or completed by 2015.

73. The implementation of effective restoration or rehabilitation projects is also decreasing, as 43% of Contracting Parties report effective implementation of restoration projects, compared to the 70% of the Parties that reported thus to COP12. Again, the reason for the decline is not clear from the information provided in national reports.
74. The commitments and obligations under the Ramsar Convention clearly identify wise use and the avoidance of wetland loss and degradation as high priorities. The framework under the Convention includes guidelines to avoid, mitigate and compensate for wetland loss and degradation, which identify the options for wetland restoration.
75. The restoration of wetlands and their water-related services offer significant opportunities to address water management problems with sustainable and cost-effective solutions. Wise use of wetlands, including the conservation and restoration of hydrological functions, is essential to maintain an infrastructure that can help meet a wide range of policy objectives, including water security, food and energy security, and secure livelihoods for local communities (TEEB Report).
76. The commitments and actions of Parties on restoration contribute to Aichi Target 15: "By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification."

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 (Indicators 13.1, 13.2, 13.3)

- **Progress in ensuring the sustainability of key productive sectors is slow.**
77. For COP13, 63% of Parties report taking actions to enhance the sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands. The actions mentioned include the development of sectoral policies, application of policies and environmental regulatory mechanisms, application of environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) for the mining and agriculture sectors, taking mitigation and compensation measures, and industry accords.
 78. As this indicator was included for the first time for COP13, progress can be monitored in the future based on this baseline.
 79. For COP13 there is a reduction in the percentage of Parties that are implementing SEAs, with 51% of Parties reporting that they do so, compared to 55% of Parties reporting this to COP12. In terms of EIAs, 81% of Parties are implementing this mechanism (COP12: 86%). However, by 2015, Parties were expected to have SEAs in place for policies, programmes and plans impacting on wetlands, and EIAs made for any project, in key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, which is likely to have negative impacts on the ecological character of wetlands.

80. Is important to highlight that the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 clearly states that the wise use of all wetlands requires that Parties ensure they are addressing wetlands beyond those currently included in the Ramsar Site network. Actions are needed to mainstream the recognition of ecosystem functions, services and benefits into a wide range of sectors and with a broad array of measures and actors in order to achieve this.
81. Actions from Parties on these indicators contribute to Aichi Target 6: “By 2020 Sustainable management of marine living resources”; and Target 7: “By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity”.

Goal 4: Enhancing implementation

Target 14 - Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language

- **The Convention’s scientific and technical guidance is widely disseminated.**
82. The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) developed its activities according to its Work Plan for 2016-2018, which was approved by the Standing Committee at its 52nd meeting in 2016. The work plan comprises 18 tasks, including eight high priority tasks and the report *Global Wetland Outlook: State of the World’s Wetlands and their Service to People*.
 83. During the 2016-2018 triennium the STRP published the following outputs, pursuant to the requests of Contracting Parties, as reflected in its work plan:
 - The first edition of the *Global Wetland Outlook: State of the World’s Wetlands and their Services to People* (production to be finalized);
 - Ramsar Technical Report No.10: *The use of earth Observation for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring: An information source for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands* (production to be finalized);
 - Ramsar Briefing Notes on: *Ramsar Advisory Missions: Technical advice on Ramsar Sites* (No. 8); *Best practice guidelines for conducting tropical peatland inventories to facilitate their designation as Ramsar Sites* (No.9); and *Wetland Restoration for Climate Change Resilience* (No. 10, production to be finalized);
 - Ramsar Policy Briefs on: *Wetlands for disaster risk reduction - Effective choices for resilient communities* (No.1); *Integrating multiple wetland values into decision-making* (No.2), *Ramsar Advisory Missions: A mechanism to respond to change in ecological character of Ramsar Sites* (No. 3); and *Implementing environmental flows with benefits for society and different wetland ecosystems in river systems* (No.4, production to be finalized);
 - The online Ramsar Sites Management Toolkit.
 84. The STRP was also actively engaged in the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), attending meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Sixth Plenary Session and reviewing its global and regional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services and on land degradation and restoration.

85. In terms of the use of the scientific and technical guidance, views and downloads from the Convention website are presented below.
86. From November 2015 until July 2018, there were 13,234 total unique views on scientific and technical guidance pages in English, 1,078 on pages in French and 9,087 on pages in Spanish.
87. These pages include Ramsar Policy Briefs, Ramsar Briefing Notes, Ramsar Technical Reports, Ramsar Handbooks, the thematic pages on peatlands and disaster risk reduction, the Ramsar Sites Management Toolkit, the STRP landing page, STRP resources and STRP outputs pages.
88. The Policy Brief on multiple wetland values was downloaded 494 times in English, 46 times in French and 60 times in Spanish; the one on wetlands and disaster risk reduction was downloaded 387 times in English, 53 times in French and 89 times in Spanish.
89. Briefing Notes have been downloaded 11,337 times since June 2016: 4,073 in English, 2,047 in French and 5,217 in Spanish. Briefing Note No.7, on *the State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People: A compilation of recent analyses*, has been the most downloaded in all languages.
90. Ramsar Technical Reports have been downloaded 3,840 times in the three Convention languages, with Report No. 7 (*Ramsar Wetland Disease Manual*) being the most downloaded in English, Report No. 3 (*Valuing wetlands: Guidance for valuing the benefits derived from wetland ecosystem services*) the most downloaded in French, and Report No. 1 (*Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity*) the most downloaded in Spanish.
91. It is important to note that only Technical Reports No.1 and No.3 were translated into the three Convention languages, and Report No. 2 into Spanish. The remaining reports will be translated in the upcoming triennium, subject to the availability of resources.
92. Since June 2016, Ramsar Handbooks including the Ramsar Manual have been downloaded 32,074 times in the three Convention languages. The most downloaded Ramsar Handbooks include Handbook 1, *Wise use of wetlands* (4th edition), with 2,690 downloads in English, 362 in French and 1,979 in Spanish (see table below).

Table 1: Most downloaded handbooks

Title	Number	Edition	English	French	Spanish
Wise use of wetlands	1	4 th	2,690	362	1,979
An introduction to the Convention on Wetlands	1	5 th	1,262	590	2,367
National Wetland Policies	2	4 th	1,016	224	952
Managing wetlands	18	4 th	967	149	821
Avian influenza and wetlands	4	4 th	917	121	483
Laws and institutions	3	4 th	842	192	757
Addressing change in ecological character	19	4 th	714	53	444
Inventory, assessment and monitoring	13	4 th	700	39	469
Partnerships	5	4 th	650	121	565
Wetland inventory	15	4 th	625	53	476
Designating Ramsar Sites	17	4 th	622	71	437
Total downloads, including Ramsar Manual	32,074				

**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
(Indicator 15.1)**

- **Contracting Parties are actively involved in the development of Ramsar Regional Initiatives.**
93. About 59% of Parties that submitted national reports have been involved in the development and implementation of a Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) under the framework of the Ramsar Convention. A further 9% of Parties report that they are developing or planning such an initiative for their region. These responses are consistent with those submitted for COP12. At COP12, four additional RRIs were endorsed, and at least one new initiative (for Southern Africa) is being developed at the time of COP13.
94. During the triennium, as instructed in paragraph 9 of Resolution XII.8 on *Regional initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention*, the Standing Committee undertook a review of the Operational Guidelines for regional initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention and adopted the revised Operational Guidelines submitted to the 52nd Standing Committee by the Working Group for the Ramsar Regional Initiatives. The Standing Committee noted that some Contracting Parties would continue to implement the Operational Guidelines in effect as of COP12.
95. At its 52nd meeting, the Standing Committee approved 15 RRIs as operating within the framework of the Convention for the period 2016-2018 (Decision SC52-17), and also endorsed four new RRIs as operating within the framework of the Convention for the period 2016-2018 and approved start-up financial support from the Ramsar core budget of CHF 30,000 to each of them for their activities in 2016 (Decision SC52-20). At its 53rd meeting it approved the same amount for the activities of the four new RRIs in 2017 (Decision SC53-09). These new RRIs are: the Senegal River Basin Initiative; the Amazon Basin Initiative; the Central Asia Initiative; and the Indo-Burma Initiative.
96. Table 1 of Doc SC54-20.1 contains a summary of information provided in the annual work plans of the 19 RRIs operating during the period 2016-2018, focusing on: their operations, listing meetings of governing bodies and members; their achievements, listing documents produced and outcomes achieved; and their ongoing activities.
97. In paragraph 14 of Resolution XII.8, the Conference of the Parties included “financial support in the Convention core budget line Support to Regional Initiatives, as listed in Annex 1 of Resolution XII.1 on *Financial and budgetary matters*, to support running costs of operational regional initiatives during the period 2016-2018 which fully meet the Operational Guidelines”. The four new eligible RRIs were allocated 240,000 CHF from the core budget to support their operations in the triennium.
98. A draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives was prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with interested Parties for consideration at COP13, in accordance with Decision SC53-12. This work took account of the report of the Working Group for the Ramsar Regional Initiatives, which was published as document SC53-11.

99. Standing Committee at its 54th meeting (Decision SC54-30) instructed the Secretariat to conduct a review of the legal status of Ramsar Regional Initiatives and the implications for the Convention to be available for COP13.

**Target 16 - Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness
(Indicators 16.1, 16.4, 16.6, 16.7)**

- **The preparation of national and site-level CEPA plans remains limited.**
- **The establishment and operation of national Ramsar/wetlands committees is declining.**
- **Progress in establishing other mechanisms to communicate with Ramsar Site managers, ministries and other MEA national focal points is slow.**
- **World Wetlands Day activities, campaigns and programmes to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands continue to be widespread.**

100. 24% Parties report to COP13 having a plan at national level for wetland CEPA, 16% at subnational level, 15% at the catchment level, and 37% at the local/site level. These statistics are similar to COP12 statistics: 27% of Parties reported having a plan at national level, 16% at subnational level, 15% at catchment level and 37% at local/site level.

101. 49% of Parties report to COP13 that they have a national Ramsar/wetlands committee in place. This is a decrease compared to the 63% of Parties for COP12. From the reports it is not clear why the operation of such committees is declining. CEPA NFPs may mainstream CEPA guidance and be informed of issues requiring CEPA actions through the national/Ramsar wetlands committees as well as other key stakeholders, and the Committees may also act as an advisory body on wetland matters to Ramsar Administrative Authorities.

102. For COP13, 53% of Parties report the existence of other mechanisms (apart from a national committee) to communicate with Ramsar Site managers (COP12: 55%). Ramsar Site managers need regular updates from their national Administrative Authority on Ramsar guidance, and particularly materials on site management, so it is important that Parties continue to make efforts to keep such communication channels operational.

103. 45% of Parties report having a mechanism in place for sharing information on Ramsar implementation with relevant ministries (COP12: 48%). Similarly, 44% of Parties report having a communication mechanism with other MEA national focal points, the same percentage as for COP12.

104. 87% of Parties report that they have carried out World Wetlands Day (WWD) activities since COP12. A similar percentage of Parties (89%) reported such activities to COP12 for the previous triennium.

105. In general, this triennium witnessed an increase in the number of reported WWD events, participating countries, downloads of WWD materials and visits to the WWD website. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube have proven to be effective channels to reach a broad and diverse audience to promote World Wetlands Day, especially among young people. During the triennium, the combined use of these platforms reached 16 million people in 2016, 25 million in 2017 and 9 million in 2018 (see table below).

Table 2: Reported World Wetlands Day activities

	2016	2017	2018
Number of reported WWD events	1,349	1,620	1,507
Number of participating countries	106	120	118
Number of WWD material downloads	75,912	281,744	151,258
Number of visits to the WWD website	50,733	54,528	200,000
Number of online articles published	1,216	747	1,888
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube)	16 million	25 million	9 million

106. Regarding campaigns, programmes and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities), 83% of Parties report that they have carried out diverse activities, programmes and campaigns since COP12 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands (COP12: 84%). While these results are encouraging, the question remains whether these are ad-hoc activities or part of a planned programme of awareness raising.

107. Parties note making use of other international days such as World Environment Day, World Water Day, World Rivers Day, World Migratory Bird Day and World Turtle Day as an opportunity to support global campaigns and draw attention to their own national and local situations. Some Parties noted the use of their national website and greater use of social media.

Target 17 - Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 from all sources are made available (Indicators 17.2, 17.3, 17.5, 17.6)

- **Non-core financial contributions for the implementation of the Convention are declining.**

108. 19% of Parties reporting to COP13 indicate having made a voluntary contribution to non-core activities during the triennium (COP12: 21%).

109. Importantly, Secretariat financial records indicate that 24 Contracting Parties (14% of all Parties) have contributed CHF 949,099.73 for non-core activities. This includes the United Arab Emirates' contribution to COP13, the voluntary contribution by Parties in Africa, contributions to the costs of Ramsar Advisory Missions, the Small Grant for Africa, Wetlands for the Future, and part of the funding for COP12.

110. Concerning funding support to countries, 28% of Parties reporting to COP13 indicate they have received funding support for in-country wetland conservation and management from development assistance agencies. This is a decrease from COP12 when 40% of Parties reporting indicated they had received assistance. The reports do not provide insight as to why the percentage of countries receiving support declined.

111. 11% of Contracting Parties reporting to COP13 that have a development assistance agency or are "donor countries" have provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries. This is also a decline from COP12 when 15% of such countries reported having done so. The reports do not make clear the reason for this decline.

112. 23% of Parties report that they have provided financial support to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, for example to support meetings of RRIIs.

113. During the last triennium the Secretariat undertook efforts to raise funds for non-core activities according to the priorities approved by Parties in Annex 3 of Resolution XII.1 on *Financial and Budgetary matters*. However, the mobilization of funds for delegate attendance to pre-COP regional meetings and to COP13 has been a challenge due to the events happening in the same year, along with many other global events (for example Conferences of the CBD and UNFCCC), and competing priorities of donors.

Target 18 - International cooperation is strengthened at all levels

- **The collaboration mechanisms between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies should be strengthened.**
- **Assistance from the UN and other global or regional bodies and agencies, and from the Convention's International Organization Partners, is declining.**

114. Concerning international cooperation, 42% of Parties reported to COP13 that national focal points of other MEAs are invited to participate in the national Ramsar/wetlands committee, and the same percentage of Parties indicate the existence of collaboration mechanisms between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Focal Point of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies. For COP12 the results were similar, with 45% of Parties responding positively in both cases.

115. On the other hand, COP13 national reports shows that 40% of Contracting Parties have received assistance from one or more UN and other global or regional bodies and agencies or the Convention's International Organization Partners in its implementation of the Convention. This is a decrease from COP12, when 47% of Parties reporting indicated they had received such assistance. The reports do not provide insight as to the reason for the decline.

Target 19 - Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 is enhanced (Indicator 19.1, 19.2, 19.3)

- **Progress is slow in capacity building for the implementation of the Convention.**

116. 17% of the Parties reporting to COP13 have assessed their national and local training needs to implement the Convention. This result is a decrease from COP12, when 20% of Parties reported this. A further 21% indicate that they have made partial assessments and another 16% have planned to do so.

117. 20% of Parties reporting to COP13 have included wetland conservation and wise-use issues in formal education programmes, while 40% of Parties report that they have partially done so. A further 8% have planned to include wetland conservation and wise-use issues in formal education programmes.

118. 44% of Contracting Parties report that 160 training opportunities have been offered for wetland site managers at Ramsar Sites. This is a decrease from COP12, when 43% of Parties offered 374 training opportunities at Ramsar Sites.

119. 39% of Parties report that 117 training opportunities have been offered at other wetlands. Again, this is a decrease from COP12 when 31% of Parties offered 188 training opportunities. For both cases, the reports do not provide insight as to the reason for the decline.

General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

120. In Section 2, as an introduction to their national reports for COP13, the Contracting Parties provided a general summary of progress and the challenges they experienced with national implementation of the Convention during 2015-2018. The key findings are summarized in Annex 2.

Ways forward to further enhance implementation of the Convention

121. The reported results described above highlight the need for strong efforts of Parties in the upcoming triennium to take actions to improve in the areas of implementation of policies and regulations, effective management of Ramsar Sites, water governance, wetland restoration, capacity building and mainstreaming of wetland values in sectorial policies, in order to achieve the Goals and Targets of the Strategic Plan and also the SDGs and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

122. In Resolution XII.2 on the Strategic Plan, Parties are encouraged to prepare national priorities for implementation of the Plan. By the 30 December 2016, 11% of all the Parties had established their priorities. For the next triennium, each Party is encouraged to establish its own priorities within the Strategic Plan, develop its own work plan for implementing them, and consider its own use of its own resources.

123. Parties are also encouraged to use their national reports as a tool to help with their national planning and to assess and monitor progress in implementing the Convention, and to plan their future priorities.

124. The implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan clearly contribute to global processes such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to other internationally agreed environmental goals and targets such as the Aichi Targets. Contracting Parties are encouraged to synergize their efforts to implement the Convention with measures that they take to implement the CBD, the UN Convention on Migratory Species, the UNFCCC, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and other regional and global MEAs as they deem appropriate.

125. The present report provides information for reporting to the 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.

126. The midterm review of the Strategic Plan to be carried out at the 14th meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP14) in accordance with Resolution XII.2 will focus on assessing the implementation of the Strategic Plan from 2016 up to 2021. The midterm review represents an opportunity to identify for COP14 any necessary amendments, in particular to timelines for indicators, taking into consideration the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals and Targets and any emerging replacement for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets.

Annex 1

Trends over time of Key Indicators

Where indicator questions were reasonably similar, the table compares information provided in the national reports to previous COPs with those provided to COP13 in order to assess progress during the last four triennia, covering the period of Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024 adopted through Resolution XII.2 and of the Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2009-2015 adopted by Resolution X.1 (2008) and adjusted for the 2013-2015 triennium by Resolution XI.3 (2012).



Increase / progress



Stable



Low increase / progress









Decrease / regress

(Adapted from IPBES)









Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Progress since COP12
Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation						
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, and aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level. {1.3.2} {1.3.3}.	1.1 Have wetland issues/benefits been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.3.2} {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i					
	a) National Policy or strategy for wetland management				62%	
	b) Poverty eradication strategies	46%	36%	39%	30%	
	c) Water resource management	46%	64%	70%	59%	
	d) Coastal and marine resource management plans		59%	53%	43%	
	e) Integrated Coastal Zone Management plans				35%	
	f) National forest programme		54%	53%	51%	
	g) National policies on agriculture		41%	47%	48%	
	h) National Biodiversity Strategy under the CBD		83%	85%	83%	








Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Progress since COP12
	i) National policies on energy and mining				29%	
	j) National policies on tourism				41%	
	k) National policies on urban development				31%	
	l) National policies on infrastructure				26%	
	m) National policies on industry				24%	
	n) National policies on aquaculture and fisheries				50%	
	o) National plans for pollution control				46%	
	p) National policies on wastewater management and water quality				49%	
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.	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	20%	N/A	N/A	17%	
Target 3-The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.	3.2 - % of Parties reporting private sector undertaking activities for the conservation, wise use and management of wetlands					
	a) Ramsar Sites	N/A	50%	62%	46%	
	b) Wetlands in general {1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii	N/A	50%	60%	41%	
	3.3 - % of Parties reporting actions taken to implement incentive measures that encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands. {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i	41%	54%	50%	52%	

Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Progress since COP12
	3.4 - % of Parties reporting actions taken to remove perverse incentive measures that discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands. {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i.	26%	35%	37%	37%	
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.	4.1 - % of Parties having a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands. {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i	N/A	28%	34%	40%	
	4.2 - % of Parties that have established or reviewed national policies or guidelines on invasive wetland species control and management. {1.9.2} KRA 1.9.iii)	34%	22%	36%	26%	
Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network						
Target 5-The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.	5.3 How many Ramsar Sites have an effective, implemented management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	25%	83%	86%	84%	
	5.4.For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? (2.4.2)	25%	75%	76%	82%	
	5.9.Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i	18%	22%	27%	23%	
Target 7-Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.	7.2. % of Parties that have reported to the Secretariat all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i.	20%	18%	21%	21%	
Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands						
Target 8-National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for	8.1 Does your country have a complete National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	37%	54%	47%	44%	
	8.5 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed during the last triennium? {1.1.3}					

Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Progress since COP12
promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.	a) Ramsar Sites (Status deteriorated)	37%	17%	19%	18%	
	b) wetlands generally (Status deteriorated)	36%	28%	41%	38%	
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.	9.1 - % of Parties that have adopted wetland policies or equivalent instruments that promote the wise use of their wetlands. {1.3.1.} KRA 1.3.i	40%	51%	55%	52%	
	9.3 Do your country's water governance and management systems treat wetlands 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	N/A	65%	71%	63%	
	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	N/A	28%	40%	42%	
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.	10.1 Have the guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19) been used or applied?.(Action 6.1.2/ 6.1.6)	24%	28%	N/A	36%	

Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Progress since COP12
Target 11-Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.	11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii	13%	21%	19%	24%	
	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	28%	39%	42%	33%	
	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	43%	57%	61%	45%	
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.	12.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i	N/A	65%	70%	54%	
	12.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been effectively implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i	66%	69%	70%	43%	
Goal 4: Enhancing implementation						
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.	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	61%	65%	68%	59%	
Target 16-Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity	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	14%	18%	27%	24%	

Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Progress since COP12
development, education, participation and awareness.	16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	45%	54%	63%	49%	
	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	N/A	56%	55%	53%	
	b) other MEA national focal points	N/A	46%	44%	45%	
	c) other ministries, departments and agencies. {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi	53%	54%	48%	45%	
	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 COP12? {4.1.8}	88%	90%	89%	87%	
	16.8. Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP12 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}	53%	82%	84%	83%	
Target 17-Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available	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	13%	20%	21%	19%	
	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	15%	17%	15%	11%	

Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Progress since COP12
	17.5 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only. Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}]	31%	36%	40%	28%	
Target 18-International cooperation is strengthened at all levels	18.1 - % of Parties where the national focal points of other MEAs are invited to participate in the National Ramsar / wetland committee {3.1.1} {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1 i.	38%	39%	45%	42%	
	18.2 - % of Parties where collaboration mechanisms exist between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Focal Point of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies. {3.1.2} {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv	N/A	43%	45%	42%	
	18.3 - % of Parties that have received assistance from one or more UN and other global or regional bodies and agencies or the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention. {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.ii.	51%	44%	47%	40%	
Target 19-Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.	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	15%	13%	20%	17%	
	19.3 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP12? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv					
	a) at Ramsar Sites		37%	43%	44%	
	b) at other wetlands	40%	37%	31%	39%	

Annex 2

General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

Most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention (A)

1. The most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention mentioned by Parties that submitted national reports to COP13 include:
 - designation of Ramsar Sites;
 - mainstreaming of wetlands into development sectors, in particular the water and agriculture sectors;
 - preparation and validation of national wetlands policies or strategies;
 - communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness campaigns on the conservation and wise use of wetlands;
 - new and improved policy and stronger legislation for protection of wetlands; and
 - preparation of wetland inventories.

Greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention (B)

2. Difficulties in implementing the Convention that Parties indicated in the national reports to COP13 included a lack of consistent coordination, internally and with other agencies (environment, agriculture, irrigation, and tourism) in dealing with wetland-related matters.
3. Where wetlands are not considered as a high priority, government investment is low, whether to implement programmes and key activities such as the preparation of management plans for Ramsar Sites and monitoring, or to sustain awareness campaign for wetlands protection, develop institutional and human capacities for wetland management or enforce wetland protection.
4. EU directives and national legislation are given priority over international conventions.
5. Poor political will and the poor visibility of the Convention is reflected in limited public awareness and limited understanding among different government agencies of the values and benefits of wetlands, and the value of Ramsar status.
6. Conflicting laws and policies affect wetland conservation and wise use of their resources, and enforcement of the law by government institutions to deal with problems at wetlands including Ramsar Sites can be weak.
7. The key to achieving sustainable management of wetlands is through community participation, which is constrained by lack of an enabling wetlands policy and legal framework to regulate sustainable use of wetlands.
8. Wetlands are increasingly threatened by pollution by industrial effluent, and agricultural and domestic waste, by the reclamation of wetlands for farmland and human settlements, and by the proliferation of alien invasive species. The opposition of key sectors, especially mining, energy and transport to integration of wetlands into environmental management hinders effective actions for the wise use of wetlands.
9. There are gaps in coordination with other Conventions, such as the CBD and UNFCCC, on wetland-related synergies, and in sharing of information on such areas.

10. There is limited data to accurately assess the full extent of wetlands and a lack of ongoing monitoring programmes to track their status and trends and key aspects of the ecological goods and services that they provide, in order to guide decision making.
11. There is limited technical capacity to conduct assessments on the ecological character of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, and to monitor their status, and also limited human capacity to implement the Convention.
12. Management plans have failed to give guidance on the management of conservation areas, and particularly on addressing threats to the ecological character of the sites.
13. The Ramsar Convention uses three languages for official communications, limiting implementation where other languages are used.

Priorities for the future implementation of the Convention (C)

14. Support continuous improvement of CEPA (communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness) to raise the awareness of the general public of wetlands and water resources conservation, and strengthen capacity building of National Focal Points and policy makers.
15. Ensure effective coordination of the implementation of the Convention nationally and integration of all relevant activities.
16. Improve national coordination and implementation of all environmental/biodiversity related Conventions, particularly the CBD and the World Heritage Convention.
17. Improve effective management of protected areas including Wetlands of International Importance, and start or continue to develop wetland inventories, monitoring and assessment of wetland benefits to generate data, and information for informed planning, management, restoration and decision making.
18. Reduce pollution, and promote integrated water resources management at the basin level.
19. Conduct assessments of the ecosystem services and of the impacts of climate change on wetlands, and take adaptation and mitigation measures. Promote Ramsar within the context of management of natural infrastructure and resilience, and explore the role of wetlands in climate change mitigation (including blue carbon, freshwater wetlands), and how this may support the ongoing management, wise use and restoration of wetlands.
20. Strengthen the regional cooperation of transboundary watersheds and support international wetland protection by continuing to promote bilateral and multilateral research and cooperation.
21. Mobilize resources for wetland management (restoration, protection and enhancement).
22. Strengthen cooperation between private companies, governments, NGOs and local community resource users.

23. Mainstream the wise use of wetlands in national priorities and ensure that the aims of the Ramsar Convention are integrated and reflected in relevant national policies and development agendas, NATURA 2000, EU Directives and biodiversity strategies.
24. Improve the organization and function of Ramsar Regional Initiatives.
25. Implement national wetland policy and strategic actions through cross-sectoral coordination and implementation of legislative frameworks.
26. Complete the updating of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, taking into consideration CBD, Ramsar, CITES and CMS strategic plans that contribute to achieve Aichi and SDGs targets and NBSAP Integration of wetlands conservation and wise use in REDD programmes to contribute to Aichi Targets 7, 14 and 15 that are related to the Targets of Ramsar Strategic Plan and therefore promoting synergies between the CBD, the UNFCCC and the Ramsar Convention.

Annex 3

Summary of national reports Section 4: Optional annex on national targets

1. 11% of Contracting Parties submitted their national targets to the Secretariat by the deadline of 30 December 2016. A brief overview of the findings of Section 4 *Optional annex on national targets* is presented below based on the inputs of the 47% of Parties that filled in this section by the deadline of 18 January 2018 for submission of full national reports to COP13.
2. Of the four Goals of the Ramsar Strategic Plan, Goals 1 to 3 were the most prioritized. Of the 13 Targets within Goals 1 to 3 of the Strategic Plan, those most prioritized were as follows:
 - Target 5 “The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management” was the highest priority of 71% of responding Parties.
 - Target 8 “National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands” was mentioned by 40% of the Contracting Parties.
 - 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” was mentioned by 39% of Contracting Parties.
 - Target 3 “The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands” was selected with a medium priority by 27% of the Parties.
3. Some of the main outcomes for Target 5 mentioned by Parties are:
 - ecological character of wetlands assessed;
 - restoration of degraded mangrove sites, promotion of community awareness and participation in mangrove restoration practices;
 - preparation of management plans;
 - technical assistance to Site managers
 - assessment of management effectiveness of Ramsar Sites;
 - development of strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands;
 - contributions to Implementation of National Aichi Targets 6, 11, 12 and 14 including all wetlands; and
 - development of rapid ecological assessment.
4. Under Target 8 the outcomes mentioned by Parties include:
 - staff trained in wetland inventorying methods;
 - inventory of peatlands;
 - creation of inventory databases;
 - inventories at the local level;
 - identification of priority sites to be protected; and
 - projects to map seagrass, mangroves and salt marshes, including using scientific and community monitoring and satellite data.
5. In terms of the resources available, 43% of Parties mentioned resourcing as “limiting” for Targets 1, 4, 5 and 11. 25% of Parties indicated severely limiting resources for Target 17. For Targets 16 and 18, 22% of the Parties described resourcing as adequate, and 12% of Parties indicated good resources for Target 1. The identification of the resources available may support

Contracting Parties to seek additional funding for implementation through the appropriate financial mechanisms.

6. The achievements mentioned above contribute not only to the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan but to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Annex 4

How the Ramsar Strategic Plan supports the SDGs and Aichi Targets

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024		Sustainable Development Goals: related SDG targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020	
Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation			Aichi Target 5	By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
Target 1	Wetlands benefits are features 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	1.b; 2.4; 6.1; 6.2; 6.5; 8.3; 8.9; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.2; 14.4; 14.5; 14.c; 15.9	Aichi Target 2	By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
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.	6.4; 6.5; 6.6	Aichi Target 7	By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
			Aichi Target 8	By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
Target 3	The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.	2.3; 2.5; 3.9; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6; 6.a; 6.b; 8.4; 9.1; 9.5; 11.4; 11.5; 11.6; 11.7; 12.2; 12.6; 14.1; 14.2; 14.3; 14.4; 14.5; 14.7; 14.b; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5; 15.6; 15.7	Aichi Target 4	By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.
			Aichi Target 3	By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.
			Aichi Target 7	same as above
			Aichi Target 8	same as above
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.	15.8	Aichi Target 9	By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024		Sustainable Development Goals: related SDG targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020	
Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network			Aichi Target 11	By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
Target 5	The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management	6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4	Aichi Target 11	By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
			Aichi Target 12	By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
			Aichi Target 6	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
Target 6	There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network in particular underrepresented types of wetlands including in underrepresented ecoregions and transboundary sites	6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4	Aichi Target 11	same as above
			Aichi Target 10	By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.
Target 7	Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.	6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 12.4; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4	Aichi Target 12	Same as above
			Aichi Target 5	By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
			Aichi Target 7	same as above
			Aichi Target 11	same as above
Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands				

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024		Sustainable Development Goals: related SDG targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020	
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.	6.6; 11.4; 14.5; 15.1	Aichi Target 14	same as above
			Aichi Target 18	By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
			Aichi Target 19	By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
			Aichi Target 12	same as above
Target 9	The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i> , within a river basin or along a coastal zone.	1.4; 5.a; 6.5; 8.4; 11.b; 14.7; 14.c	Aichi Target 4	same as above
			Aichi Target 6	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
			Aichi Target 7	same as above
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.	2.3; 2.5; 5.5; 5.a; 6.b; 12.8; 15.c	Aichi Target 18	By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024		Sustainable Development Goals: related SDG targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020	
Target 11	Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.	1.5; 14.7; 15.9	Aichi Target 13	By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.
			Aichi Target 1	By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps taken to conserve and use it sustainably.
			Aichi Target 2	same as above
			Aichi Target 14	By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
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	6.6; 14.2; 14.4; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3	Aichi Target 15	By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
			Aichi Target 14	same as above
Target 13	Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, agriculture and ecotourism practices when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods	1.b; 2.4; 6.5; 8.3; 8.9; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 12b; 13.2; 14.4; 14.5; 14.c; 15.9	Aichi Target 6	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
			Aichi Target 7	By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
Operational Goal				
Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation				
Target 14	Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language	9.5; 9.a; 14.3; 14.4; 14.5; 17.6	Aichi Target 19	same as above

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024		Sustainable Development Goals: related SDG targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020	
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.	1.b; 2.5; 6.5; 6.6; 9.1; 11.a; 14.2; 15.1; 17.6; 17.7; 17.9		
Target 16	Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.	2.4; 4.7; 4.a; 6.a; 11.3; 13.1; 13.3; 15.7; 17.9	Aichi Target 1	same as above
			Aichi Target 18	same as above
Target 17	Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available	9.a; 10.6; 15.a; 15.b; 17.3	Aichi Target 20	By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.
Target 18	International cooperation is strengthened at all levels	1.b; 2.5; 6.5; 6.6; 6.a; 10.6; 12.4; 14.5; 14.c; 15.1; 15.6; 16.8; 17.6; 17.7; 17.9		
Target 19	Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.	2.4; 6.a; 11.3; 13.1; 13.3; 15.c; 17.9	Aichi Target 17	By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
			Aichi Target 1	same as above