

# Ramsar National Report to COP14

## Section 1: Institutional Information

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

Name of Contracting Party

The completed National Report **must be accompanied by a letter** in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP14 National Report. It can be attached to this question using the "Manage documents" function (blue symbol below)

> To DO

### Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority

> National Parks and Wildlife Service

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

> Dr Andy Bleasdale, Principal Officer, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage..

Mailing address

> National Parks & Wildlife Service

90 King Street North

Dublin 7

D07 N7CV

IRELAND

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

[National Parks and Wildlife Service](#)

Telephone/Fax

> (01) 888 3200

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> andy.bleasdale@housing.gov.ie

### Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title

> Dr Maurice Eakin, Senior Wetland Ecologist, National Parks and Wildlife Service

Mailing address

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

Name and title

› Dr Maurice Eakin, Senior Wetland Ecologist, National Parks and Wildlife Service

Name of organisation

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

Name and title

› Dr Maurice Eakin, Senior Wetland Ecologist, National Parks and Wildlife Service

Name of organisation

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

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

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

1)

› In Ireland the Convention is largely implemented through the Irish Ramsar Wetland Committee. The IRWC which was formed in 2010 and ran on a voluntary basis from that time. In 2018 funding was secured for technical, administrative and communications support. This allowed the IRWC to engage an ecologist for a 35 day contract on year long contracts in 2018/2019 and 2019/2020. The contract duration was extended to three years with 50 days per year in 2021, providing security of support to the IRWC until 2024. The IRWC have met regularly (3-4 times per year) since 2018. The Committee has representation from 16 sectors (National Government depts, Environmental NGO's, Academia, Community groups, Local Authorities, semi state bodies) and sought to pursue objectives set out in the IRWC Terms of Reference (increase awareness of the Convention's approach to wetland and water-related issues, link policy makers with policy implementers, promote guidance on the wise use of wetlands). The meetings continued on line during Covid and included an outdoor meeting during Covid.

2)

› The IRWC initiated a number of projects to raise awareness of the Ramsar Convention and its principles including the following: developed the IRWC website, produced the IRWC Guide to Wetland Habitat Types in Ireland, organised a Workshop on the IRWC Wetland Guide, prepared a Report on Opinions on Wetland Management Practices following the 2016 Conference on Natural and Constructed Wetlands, promoted World Wetlands Day with particular focus on the 50th anniversary, prepared submissions on Wetland related policy documents).

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Terms of Ref VER AUGUST 2020.docx - IRWC Terms of Reference

3)

› Continued to progress the migration and updating of Ireland's 45 Ramsar Sites from paper based form to the Ramsar Site Information Service This process started in 2014 when updates were made to six sites, 31 sites were updated by 2017. Updates to the remaining 14 sites and finalisation of the 45 sites has been underway since then. The update, review, final submission and publication of all 45 existing Ramsar sites will be completed by mid 2022.

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

Website of the Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee

4)

› Strengthened links within the Ramsar "family". The IRWC hosted a joint meeting with the UK Ramsar Group and there was agreement to maintain links and to collaborate on cross border sites (Ireland/Northern Ireland) and other initiatives. Links with the Secretariat were strengthened with the attendance of Isabel Wallnöffer and Tobias Salathé at a meeting of the IRWC (December, 2021). External "wetland" links were also developed e.g. with Wetland Surveys Ireland.

5)

› In line Ramsar policy Ireland has recently undertaken an accelerated and comprehensive programme of peatland restoration. This includes a programme to fully restore all designated raised bogs (Special Areas of Conservation and Natural Heritage Areas), a programme to rehabilitate 33,000ha of former commercial peat extraction lands and a new EU LIFE initiative (<https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie/>) to restore designated western blanket bogs. Another new EU LIFE project (<https://peatlandsandpeople.ie/>) aims to restore a suite of raised bogs and also develop a large-scale People's Discovery Attraction relating to Peatlands and Climate Change. All of these projects include comprehensive community engagement.

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

1)

› Legacy attitudes. The protection and management of wetlands in Ireland has been, for centuries, seen in the context of their economic functionality. For example, in a resource deficient country, peatlands were only seen as an economic resource. Their value was defined in terms of energy or agriculture and, thus consequently, in terms of the costs of drainage and its maintenance. Their ecological functioning, as now understood, was largely unknown or ignored. Historically wetlands were barriers to land transport and caused difficulties for agriculture. Given this historical context, a considerable shift is required whereby wetlands are seen by the

public at large in terms of their natural values and the vital services they offer.

2)

› Policy and legislation issues. There is no national policy on wetlands (there is also no national policy position for Ireland's environment within which it might sit). There is, however, a National Peatland Strategy but that doesn't extend to all wetland types. Wetlands, per se, are not covered by any specific national legislation (but wetlands within the Natura 2000 network, National Parks and National Nature Reserves have protection). There is a need to define all current legislation that impinges on wetland protection and management, both national and European, into which a wetlands policy has to integrate.

3)

› Within the context of wetland protection (during e.g. planning, developments) the inclusion of buffer zones adjacent to wetlands (as suggested in Article 2.1 of the Convention) to incorporate source zones for the water supplying the wetland remains controversial. However, protecting the linkage between water source areas and the wetland receptor is a key element of the EU Water Framework Directive (2000), particularly where the source is groundwater (GWDTE - Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems).

4)

› Sufficient and consistent allocation of resources to progress and complete the updating of Ireland's 45 Ramsar sites and provision of consistent support to the IRWC. This issue has been resolved with the issuing of a three year support contract in 2021.

5)

› Limited capacity to engage with Ramsar actions at the international level e.g. COP meetings.

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

1)

› Completion of the update process for the 45 existing Ramsar Sites and publication of these sites on the IRWC website. This will allow the 45 sites to be promoted and featured as a key tool for raising awareness of Ireland's wetlands.

Concerted and continued implementation of the peatland restoration and rehabilitation programmes.

2)

› Development by the IRWC of a National Wetlands Policy. The purpose of a wetland policy will be to enable the building of wetland conservation, within the broader context of environmental management, into the daily work of Irish authorities. Recognising the special role(s) of wetlands, a wetlands policy should provide those responsible for administering regulations with guidelines and processes to ensure wetlands are managed in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. As part of this policy there will be a focus on the following: policy linkages, enforcement of existing legislation, roles and responsibilities, ecosystem services, wetland conservation and restoration initiatives which are underway. From the National Wetlands Policy an All Ireland Wetland Plan may be developed to provide a user friendly and action based guide to wetlands useful for community groups, local authorities and general public.

3)

› To continue to raise awareness of wetlands in Ireland through regular meetings of the IRWC which offers the potential to organise workshops, training events, conferences and other initiatives.

4)

› To examine the feasibility of aligning the boundaries for existing Ramsar sites with those of the SAC's and/or SPA's within which they lie. The existing boundaries for many Ramsar sites were drawn from the original SPA boundary or from Nature Reserve boundaries. In many cases the Ramsar Site now sits within a wider wetland complex which has since been designated as an SPA and or an SAC (European Site). The harmonisation of Ramsar site boundaries to align with the wider wetland complex will make sense of any Ramsar site boundary discrepancies.

5)

› To develop a protocol for the proposal of new Ramsar sites e.g. focus on gaps in current network, focus on wetlands with strong community links and in doing so giving communities due recognition of their work.

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

› A key priority for the present is finalisation of the RSIS updates. The Secretariat provides considerable support in this regard with good lines of communication and useful discussion. Following completion of the current updates continued communication and discussion will be welcomed with regards connecting to International initiatives, developing a protocol for new Ramsar sites and progressing the national wetland

policy. Developing links with other Ramsar Committees (or similar) will also be important. Any assistance will be welcome and useful.

E. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)? (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to develop)  
> no

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

> At a national level discussions could be undertaken between representatives of the various biodiversity Conventions/Agreements and the IRWC. Perhaps there could be IRWC representation on other Committees and vice versa.

G. How is the Ramsar Convention linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., on sustainable development, energy, extractive industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity) and how this could be improved?

> Currently the link is through cross sectoral representation on the IRWC where the intention is that the "wetland message" is relayed back to the parent organisation by the IRWC representatives. It is the intention of the IRWC to prepare a National Wetlands Policy. This will strengthen the link between the Ramsar Convention, its principles regarding wetlands and the implementation of water policy and strategy. The NWP will aim to provide an over arching framework whereby wetlands can become integrated at all levels and within all policy making. This can be aligned with a national policy position on the Environment (Environment Protection Agency) and on biodiversity (National Parks and Wildlife Service).

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

> No specific data available on the gender balance with regards to wetland-related decisions, programmes and research.

The EPA which is responsible for environmental monitoring including water (from waterbody to catchment and basin level) has a strategy to promote gender equity in the Irish environmental research arena (details are outlined at <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/epa-research-2030/strategies-and-policies/gender-strategy/>).

The Government's mission is for an Ireland where all women enjoy equality with men and can achieve their full potential, while enjoying a safe and fulfilling life (See <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/d7752-gender-equality/>).

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

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/d7752-gender-equality/>

<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/epa-research-2030/strategies-and-policies/gender-strategy/>

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

> The IRWC provides a valuable platform for cross sectoral representation in discussions with common interest in wetlands. It is also of value in terms of occupying "neutral" ground whereby Ramsar sites can be selected and recognised for the variety of life and habitats which they support and the many functions and services they provide, without there being a site specific legal context and thereby the potential for conflict with landowners and landowner rights. In this way the focus can be on biodiversity, function, service and community links. The international reach of the Convention which extends beyond EU boundaries and links Ireland and its biodiversity to the rest of the globe is also key; it is all connected and something which we must realise with greater urgency within the context of global biodiversity loss and climate change.

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

> The IRWC is comprised of the following: Heritage Officers, Office of Public Works, Teagasc, Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Community Wetlands Forum, Dept Housing Local Government and Heritage, Coastwatch Europe, National Biodiversity Data Centre, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dept Agriculture, Food and Marine, BirdWatch Ireland (representing the Environment Pillar), Environment Protection Agency, Inland Fisheries Ireland.

The report has been compiled by the support person for the IRWC (Jackie Hunt), with oversight by the National Focal Point, Dr Maurice Eakin. It is based on meetings, discussions and projects which have been completed by the IRWC over the last five years. A number of questions have benefited from specific input from members

of the IRWC. In addition it is informed by relevant state of the environment reports prepared by the EPA (State of Irelands Environment, 2020) and NPWS (National Biodiversity Plan).

## Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

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

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

#### Target 1

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

[Reference to Aichi Target 2]

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

Please select only one per square.

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

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

## 1.1 Additional information

> a) There is no National Wetland policy of strategy (but there is a national peatland strategy).

e) There is no Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan

Other national policies either make explicit reference to wetlands or they are required to consider wetlands through the Strategic Environmental Assessment process and Habitats Directive Assessments, which all policies are required to undertake. The former should consider all wetlands while the latter will consider wetlands which are selected as European Sites (SAC and/or SPA).

## Target 2

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

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

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

☒ C=Partially

## 2.1 Additional Information

> Water quality in Ireland is monitored by the Environment Protection Agency. Ireland's rivers, lakes, estuaries,



coastal and groundwaters are assessed under the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). The EPA produce regular reports in the results of the WQ monitoring and the data is available through online mapping and database access (e.g. EPAMaps.ie).

The EPA have a Catchments team who work with various departments to promote a science based catchment approach to water management which is informed by the data gathered by the Catchments team (catchments.ie).

The Department of Housing and Local Government implement the River Basin Management Plan. The Plan sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027. The Plan seeks to provide a coordinated framework for improving the quality of Irish. A plan was adopted for the period 2018 - 2021 and public consultation on the Draft River Basin Management Plan for 2022 - 2027 is currently underway.

Detailed data on the water available to, and required by, wetlands is also available for some specific habitat types e.g. peatlands within the context of raised bog and blanket bog restoration (see npws.ie, bordnamona.ie, coillte.ie) and turloughs (e.g. GSI.ie).

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

<http://epa.ie>

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

☒ C=Partially

## 2.2 Additional Information

› Given the broad range of wetlands in Ireland, from raised bogs, blanket bogs, fens, turloughs, lakes to riverine and coastal wetlands, projects have been, and are being, undertaken to understand the relevant hydroecological functioning of each from which good practice in management is emerging. In particular, the EPA and NPWS in collaboration with universities have undertaken extensive monitoring and hydroecological analysis of raised bogs, blanket bogs, fens and turloughs, largely as GWDTE under the Water Framework Directive.

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

☒ C=Partially

## 2.3 Additional Information

› Over the past number of years, various state agencies across Ireland have initiated a broad swathe of measures which are either actively encouraging the sustainable use of water for ecosystem requirements or which will have a positive impact in this area in the future. Improvements in our numerical modelling capability and legislative changes in terms of compiling a national water abstractions register (SI 261 of 2018) are two key examples. Wetlands conservation and rehabilitation were key components of the 2nd Cycle River Basin Management Plan for meeting WFD objectives and significant investment has and is being made, particularly in the area of raised and cutover bogs. This work will continue through the implementation of the 3rd Cycle River Basin Management Plan which runs to 2027. Across state agencies and government departments, a conscious focus has now developed in the area of nature-based solutions, many of which have sustainable water use and wetlands at their core. It is anticipated that this policy level shift will translate into clear benefits for wetlands in Ireland in the coming years.

2.4 Have projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands been developed (Action r3.4.ix. )

☒ D=Planned

## 2.4 Additional Information

› Some projects already underway and planned to mitigate groundwater flooding from turloughs while maintaining ecological integrity of the wetlands. Further investigation underway on the possible abstraction for public water supply from the River Shannon while maintaining the ecological functioning of the riverine wetlands, particularly the Callows. Best practice is site specific but ecological criteria of projects are recognised as paramount.

2.5 Percentage of households linked to sewage system?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

› 99

## 2.5 Additional Information

› All households (99.9%) in Ireland had sewerage facilities in 2016 (Source CSO.ie).

Households connected to the public sewerage schemes accounted for 67% of all households. Individual septic tanks accounted for 26% of domestic sewerage facilities, while other sewerage systems accounted for 4% of households with 3% not stated.

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

<http://cso.ie>

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☒ E=Exact number (percentage)

› 67

## 2.6 Additional Information

› Based on data from the 2016 Census.

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

<http://cso.ie>

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☒ E=Exact number (percentage)

› 26

## 2.7 Additional Information

› Individual septic tanks accounted for 26% of domestic sewerage facilities

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

<http://cso.ie>

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☒ C=Partially

## 2.8 Additional Information

› Partial use, for example, Irish Water is the utility is responsible for providing water and wastewater services throughout Ireland. The Irish Water website provides information on the benefits of constructed wetlands for waste water treatment and provides some examples of its use in Ireland: Dunhill in Co. Waterford, Glaslough in Co. Monaghan and Clonaslee in Co. Laois, Lixnaw, Co. Kerry (Source water.ie)

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

<http://water.ie>

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☒ G=More than (plants)

› 1100

## 2.9 Additional Information

› The EPA Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2019 report provides an overview of urban waste water treatment in Ireland during 2019. More than a billion litres of waste water is collected every day in Ireland's public sewers and treated at over 1,100 treatment plants. The type of treatment is summarised below:

Most waste water is treated at plants designed to provide secondary treatment (67.2%) or secondary treatment with nutrient removal (30.4%).

A small amount (1%) is conveyed to plants that provide a more basic form of treatment, known as primary treatment.

The remainder (1.4%) is collected and discharged directly into the water environment without any treatment. By 2019, 98.6% of urban waste water received at least primary treatment

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☒ A=Good

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☒ X=Unknown

#### 2.12 Additional Information

> A report by the EPA in 2016 described that there are no municipal water reuse projects or measures in Ireland at that time. It is noted in the report that, some heavy water-using industries in Ireland are pursuing water reuse for their own reasons of cost and corporate social responsibility, but there are few publicly available data on the extent and nature of such measure and that, Many people are open to the idea of water reuse in Ireland and a recognition of its potential benefits for most purposes, with the exception of drinking water and perhaps food production (Source EPA Research Report\_293:  
[https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/water/Research\\_Report\\_293.pdf](https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/water/Research_Report_293.pdf).

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

<https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/water>

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☒ X=Unknown

#### 2.13 Additional Information

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

> Water shortages are likely in Ireland and there is growing debate around the re-use of waste water and one action which can be taken to tackle this issue. While wastewater re-use is not currently in action, it seems likely that it will be part of the solution to predicted water shortages

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

☒ B=No

### Target 3

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

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

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

KRA 1.10.i

☒ C=Partially

#### 3.1 Additional Information

> There is no explicit encouragement directly linked to the Ramsar Convention. Information about the Ramsar Convention is available through the IRWC website and any associated events and resources, however direct encouragement with regards wise use principles and guidance does not occur. However, there is indirect encouragement to all sectors via platforms such as the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

The National Peatlands Strategy (2017) has wide-ranging recommendations on the wise use of peatlands by all sectors.

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

<https://biodiversityireland.ie>

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

Please select only one per square.

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

### 3.2 Additional information

> There are a few of examples of private sector projects relating to the wise use of wetlands. For example, on 20 May, 2021, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Intel Corporation launched a blanket bog restoration project in the Wicklow Mountains National Park (WMNP). The restoration project, taking place over the coming months, will see 60 hectares of drained bog re-wetted to increase water storage levels in part of the River Liffey headwaters by an expected 50-90 million litres. These headwaters supply the Poulaphouca (Blessington) reservoir, a drinking water source for the Greater Dublin Area. The bog restoration will also protect biodiversity, improve carbon storage, and is likely to improve water quality

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

National Parks and Wildlife Service and Intel launch bog restoration project to increase water storage by millions of litres

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

☒ C=Partially

### 3.3 Additional information

> There are currently a number of farming schemes which incentivise positive actions for wetlands. Examples of these schemes include The Pearl Mussel Project, The FarmPEAT project, the Allow Project (IRD Duhallow) which aims to restore the status of a high-status waterbody in an agricultural catchment (River Allow, Duhallow, Co. Cork), through a collaborative locally led farmer-focused conservation measures, the Curlew Conservation Programme which involves locally based teams of advisors, champions and nest protection officers, working closely with landowners and other local interests, to protect Curlew nesting attempts and to improve habitat quality, the Hen Harrier Project which is a results based agricultural programme targeted specifically at farmers with land designated for the protection of breeding Hen Harriers, the Inishowen Upland Farmers Project EIP which aims to improve the economic sustainability of farming High Nature Value land in Inishowen through the implementation of a range of innovative measures which also deliver on environmental sustainability by increasing biodiversity, improving water quality and combating climate change, the Mulkear EIP which aims to support innovation, technology and knowledge transfer for farmer led enhancement of water quality, in-stream habitat and riparian management in the Mulkear Catchment in Counties Limerick and Tipperary. There are a number of other projects with similar objectives (see farmingfornature.ie.). The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage operate the Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme which seeks to encourage local peatland communities, local groups, local schools and individuals to engage with the Department in relation to the conservation and revitalisation of fens, raised and blanket bog Special Areas of Conservation, Natural Heritage Areas and other peatland areas and to promote public engagement with and awareness of our natural heritage and the benefits that such wetlands provide. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has published a map outlining the locations of the country where some 20,000 farmers will be eligible for the maximum payment of €10,500 under the new Agri-Environment Climate Measure (AECM) from next year. The AECM will form the 'flagship environment scheme' of Pillar II of the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) when it comes into effect from 2023. Given that one of the priorities for this scheme relates to lands within River sub-basins containing waterbodies with 'high status' water objectives, there will be benefits to wetlands, some of which are Ramsar sites.

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

Agri-environmental Climate Measure  
peatlands community engagement scheme  
<https://www.farmingfornature.ie/resources/>

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

☒ D=Planned

### 3.4 Additional Information

> There are currently conflicts between policies within Government which lead to loss of wetland habitat e.g. within Agricultural Policy the current implementation of the Basic Payment Scheme means that farmers receive no payment for land that is “unworked”, such as scrub and wetlands (EPA, Ireland’s Environment Report, 2020). There are a number of Results Based Payment Schemes (LIFE projects, European Innovation Partnership projects) and other schemes (e.g. ASSAP) which specifically seek to protect water quality and/or biodiversity within farming. However, policy change within CAP is required to ensure wetland habitats are valued within the Basic Payment Scheme.

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

<https://www.teagasc.ie/environment/water-quality/farming-for-water-quality-assap/assap-in-detail/>

## Target 4

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

{Reference to Aichi Target 9}

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

☒ A=Yes

### 4.1 Additional information

> The National Biodiversity Data Centre provides national coordination and management of information on Ireland’s non-native invasive species, and supports the National Parks and Wildlife Service with the implementation and reporting on the EU Invasive Alien Regulations (1143/2014). Central to this work is maintaining Ireland’s National Invasive Species Database to collate detailed information on the status and trends on Ireland’s non-native invasive alien species. This includes operating an Early Warning Alert System in partnership with key agencies and partners. The ultimate aim of this network is to support decision-making to mitigate the spread and impact of invasive species in Ireland

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

<https://invasives.ie>

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

☒ D=Planned

### 4.2 Additional information

> Three Invasive Alien Species (IAS) pathway action plans are currently under development in Ireland for the following pathways:

- Angling
- Recreational boating and watercraft
- Movement of soil and spoil

A key focus of the pathway action plans is to protect waterbodies and water quality from the effects of invasive species colonisation.

EU Regulation (1143/2014) deals with Invasive Aliens in a generic way (and thus is inclusive of their occurrence within a wetland).

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

<https://invasives.ie/biosecurity/pathway-action-plans/>

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

☒ B=No

### 4.3 Additional Information

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

> IAS control is on going at a number of sites and for a number of species. Successful control may have occurred at some sites, however for most sites this is an on-going process. Examples are control of *Lagarosiphon major* and *Dreissena polymorpha* at Lough Corrib, control of *Rhododendron ponticum* on blanket bog and wet heath sites.

Direct action for IAS in protected sites has been pursued through two key LIFE programmes, i.e. CAISIE LIFE 2009-2013 and, the Duhallow LIFE Samock project (2010-2015). The 2015 Regulation has also catalysed local action to combat IAS which has included the preparation of the first IAS Action Plan by Dublin City Council (2016-2020) and the development of local Community Action Groups such as Upper Achill, County Mayo which has been worked to eradicate Giant Rhubarb and Japanese Knotweed since 2016 (Source: National

Biodiversity Action Plan, NPWS)

To minimise the risk of marine invasive species, the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments was ratified in 2017.

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

<https://www.npws.ie/publications>

<https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/what-we-do/conservation-and-development/invasive-species-management>

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 4.4 Additional Information

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

> IAS are a persistent risk to many wetland sites, high risk species include *Lagarosiphon major* (Curly pondweed), *Dreissena polymorpha* (Zebra mussel), *Impatiens glandulifera* (Himalayan balsam), *Fallopia japonica* (Japanese knotweed). These species are affecting for example, lakes, rivers, wet woodland, heath and blanket bog habitats. Other species are affecting the estuarine and marine environment (e.g. Carper Sea Squirt, *Didemnum vexillum*)

Another example of concern is the North American freshwater crayfish species. To date none have been found in Ireland but the crayfish plague organism (*Aphanomyces astaci*) carried by these species arrived in Ireland in 2015, and has reached five rivers in Ireland and has the potential to cause local, or even national, extinction of the native white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*). This species has been lost from much of its natural range in Europe and the Irish population is particularly important. New regulations have been introduced to ban the import, sale and distribution of 5 species of non-native crayfish.

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

☒ C=Partially

#### 4.5 Additional Information

> Invasive species within waterways are monitored by several bodies including Inland Fisheries Ireland, NPWS, the Marine Institute, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. There are various strategies, policies and legislation which seek to control the spread of Alien Invasive Species in Ireland.

Some assessment at site level is also undertaken e.g. removal of *Rhododendron* from alluvial woodland at Hazelwood (Lough Gill, Co. Sligo), Killarney National Park, Glenveagh National Park and in the Connemara National Park.

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

<https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/what-we-do/education-and-outreach/safeguarding-and-governance/biosecurity>

<https://www.coillte.ie/coillte-nature/ourprojects/restoringhazelwood/>

## Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

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

### Target 5

The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective, planning and integrated management {2.1.}

[Reference to Aichi Targets 6,11, 12]

5.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i

☒ A=Yes

#### 5.1 Additional information

> Ireland has 45 Ramsar sites and the updating of these sites following the Strategic Framework is a current priority of the IRWC. Consideration is being given to designation of further Ramsar sites.

5.2 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.1} KRA 2.2.ii

☒ D=Planned

#### 5.2 Additional information

> At present the RSIS is being used to finalise updates to the existing 45 Irish Ramsar sites. Thereafter the RSIS will be used to identify further Ramsar Sites.

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

☒ E=Exact number (sites)

> 3

5.4 Of the Ramsar Sites with a formal management plan, for how many of these is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i

☒ E=Exact number (sites)

> 3

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

☒ F=Less than (sites)

> 20

### 5.3 – 5.5 Additional information

> A number of Ramsar sites benefit from conservation management actions at local, site or catchment level. Examples are LAWPRO, Wild Atlantic Nature Life Project, Bull Island UNESCO Reserve, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve. The 3 sites with formal management plans (Clara Bog, Raheenmore Bog and Mongan Bog) are all SACs and have full Restoration Plans. Most sites all have site specific conservation objectives which give precise targets to ensure they are restored or maintained to favourable conservation status.

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

☒ C=Partially

### 5.6 Additional information

> Most Ramsar sites are SAC, SPA or both. The habitats and species of conservation interest (SCI's) within these sites are monitored and assessed as part of the Irish Government's Habitats Directive and Birds Directive reporting obligations. The Article 17 and Article 12 Reports are available on the NPWS website. Most sites have site specific conservation objectives which give comprehensive details on attributes and targets needed to maintain or restore the sites to favourable conservation status.

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

<http://NPWS.ie>

<https://www.npws.ie/status-and-trends-ireland%E2%80%99s-bird-species-%E2%80%93-article-12-reporting>

<https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports>

5.7 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.4} {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv

☒ X=Unknown

### 5.7 Additional information

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

> A number of Ramsar sites benefit from conservation management actions including cross sectoral involvement at various levels. Examples are LAWPRO, Wild Atlantic Nature Life Project, Bull Island UNESCO Reserve.

## Target 7

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

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

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

☒ A=Yes

### 7.1 Additional information

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

> There is no formal mechanism specific to Ramsar sites but as all Ramsar sites are also Natura 2000 sites they have inspection regimes carried out by staff of NPWS, which will pick up on negative impacts. Also, members of the public can/do contact local NPWS staff to report potentially negative activities.

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

☒ C=Some Cases

#### 7.2 Additional information

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

> Reports for the following and the cases are closed: Lough Corrib (Addergoole Bog), Clara Bog, Mongan Bog, Raheenmore Bog and Lough Derravaragh.

Balydoyle Bay - case still open (pipeline construction)

7.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, such as requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii

☒ Z=Not Applicable

### Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

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

#### Target 8

National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

[Reference to Aichi Targets 12, 14, 18, 19]

8.1 Does your country have a complete National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

☒ B=No

#### 8.1 Additional information

> There are various sources of information with regards to wetlands including NPWS SAC and SPA spatial habitat data (NPWS.ie) and a website which gathers data on wetland habitats (derived from field survey and from likelihood of wetland habitat based on historical maps, soils maps and other relevant data) (wetlandsurveysireland.ie). Neither provide a complete wetland inventory but are very useful in the absence of one. Several local authorities have commissioned surveys of wetland habitats. Data from these surveys has been incorporated into the Wetland Surveys Ireland mapping. Local or local authority mapping is on going and the mapping will be updated as more data becomes available. The National Fen Survey 2021 - 2024 is currently underway and will for the first time provide a full inventory of Ireland's fen resource. Moreover, there is comprehensive data on the raised bog resource.

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

<http://www.wetlandsurveysireland.com/>

<https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data>

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

☒ C1=Partially

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

☒ C=Partially

#### 8.3 Additional information

> The Wetland Surveys Ireland mapping tool and the spatial data provided by NPWS are both maintained as datasets. The latter is available as spatial data to the public. The former mapping tool is available to the public via a mapping viewer. There are a range of other data sources relevant to wetlands which are available to the public through mapping tools e.g. epamaps.ie.

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

[NPWS](#)

[Wetland Surveys Ireland](#)

<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 8.4 Additional information

> There is access to wetland inventory data on various national and local authority websites. Some key sources are listed in sections 8.1 and 8.3 but this is not exhaustive. A government portal provides open access to all public sector data on the environment.



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

<https://data.gov.ie/>

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

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

### 8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b)

> The EPA State of the Environment Report 2020 describes the following: In 2018, wetlands represented 14.9 per cent of the national area; this represents a moderate decrease since 2012. However, in 1990, wetlands represented 18.6 per cent of the national area. There has therefore been a 20 per cent reduction in this important land cover type since 1990, with a loss of 258,800 hectares (Source: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/irelands-environment/state-of-environment-report-/>)

NPWS reporting on Habitats Directive in 2019 assessed the conservation status of 59 protected habitats. The Overall Status of habitats found that 85% of habitats were in Unfavourable (i.e. Inadequate or Bad) status, with 46% of habitats demonstrating ongoing declining trends (Figure 1b). Although some habitats had insufficient Range and Area when the Directive came into force (e.g. active raised bog, hay meadows and many woodland habitats), the Structure and Functions of the habitats is driving the Overall Status results in many cases, with inadequate conservation measures in place to improve the Future Prospects. Declining trends are particularly notable in marine, peatland, grassland and woodland habitats.

(Source: NPWS\_2019\_Vol1\_Summary\_Article17.pdf)

The Overall Status of the 60 Habitats Directive species is that 57% of species are in Favourable status and 30% are in Unfavourable status (i.e. Inadequate or Bad), with 72% demonstrating stable or improving trends while 15% demonstrate ongoing declining trends. Population increases and Range expansion have been observed for several bat species, marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*), otter (*Lutra lutra*) and pine marten (*Martes martes*). Ongoing declines are reported for all whorl snails, freshwater pearl mussel, lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) and maërl species.

The 6th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity describes that 19% of Birds species assessed were found to be increasing (EU Birds Directive Reporting), 18% of breeding species and 16% of wintering taxa showed long-term decline. The long-term population trends are unknown for 56% of breeding taxa and 61% of wintering. A number of species were highlighted as of particular concern since the 2013 report to the CBD, notably Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Corncrake (*Crex crex*), Jack Snipe (*Lymnocryptes minimus*) and Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).

Based on national reporting by the EPA and NPWS the general trend for wetland habitats and wetland habitat dependant species is one of deterioration.

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

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/National%20Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan%20English.pdf>

<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/irelands-environment/state-of-environment-report-/>

[http://NPWS\\_2019\\_Vol1\\_Summary\\_Article17.pdf](http://NPWS_2019_Vol1_Summary_Article17.pdf)

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

☒ G=More than (km<sup>2</sup>)

> 13,310km<sup>2</sup>

### 8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	<b>Square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>
--	---

A -- Permanent shallow marine waters in most cases less than six metres deep at low tide; includes sea bays and straits.	
B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds; includes kelp beds, sea-grass beds, tropical marine meadows.	
C -- Coral reefs.	
D -- Rocky marine shores; includes rocky offshore islands, sea cliffs.	
E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores; includes sand bars, spits and sandy islets; includes dune systems and humid dune slacks.	
F -- Estuarine waters; permanent water of estuaries and estuarine systems of deltas.	270.83
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats.	489.33
Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs.	
H -- Intertidal marshes; includes salt marshes, salt meadows, saltings, raised salt marshes; includes tidal brackish and freshwater marshes.	53.29
I -- Intertidal forested wetlands; includes mangrove swamps, nipah swamps and tidal freshwater swamp forests.	
J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons; brackish to saline lagoons with at least one relatively narrow connection to the sea.	20.99
K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons; includes freshwater delta lagoons.	
Zk(a) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, marine/coastal.	

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km2)  
> 834

#### 8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
L -- Permanent inland deltas.	

M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls.	72.06
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks.	
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes large oxbow lakes.	1138.73
P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes floodplain lakes.	
Q -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes.	
R -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats.	
Sp -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools.	
Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools.	
Tp -- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools; ponds (below 8 ha), marshes and swamps on inorganic soils; with emergent vegetation water-logged for at least most of the growing season.	247.53
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils; includes sloughs, potholes, seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes.	
U -- Non-forested peatlands; includes shrub or open bogs, swamps, fens.	11017.55
Va -- Alpine wetlands; includes alpine meadows, temporary waters from snowmelt.	
Vt -- Tundra wetlands; includes tundra pools, temporary waters from snowmelt.	
W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands; shrub swamps, shrub-dominated freshwater marshes, shrub carr, alder thicket on inorganic soils.	

Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands; includes freshwater swamp forests, seasonally flooded forests, wooded swamps on inorganic soils.	
Xp -- Forested peatlands; peat swamp forests.	
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.	
Zg -- Geothermal wetlands.	
Zk(b) -- Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, inland.	

## 8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

> 12476

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

> Technical and governance commitment.

### Target 9

The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone {1.3.}.

[Reference to Aichi Targets 4, 6, 7]

### 9.1 Is a Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) that promotes the wise use of wetlands in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i

If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box

☒ B=No

#### 9.1 Additional information

> There are various policies from various Government departments which support some of the principles of the Ramsar Convention, however there is no single wetland policy (or equivalent) which promotes the wise use of wetlands. The National Peatland Strategy has policy recommendations for the wise use of all peatlands, which are a significant portion of Irelands wetlands.

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.2 Additional information

> Some of the commitments under the Ramsar Convention are met through legislation which provides for the protection of wetlands such as the EIA and SEA Directives, the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and the Wildlife Act.

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.3 Additional information

> Yes, River Basin Management Plans have been published and the next RBMP is in draft form for public consultation.

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

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/429a79-river-basin-management-plan-2018-2021/>

### 9.4 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.7.2}{1.7.3}

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.4 Additional information

› Proposed actions of the next RBMP (2022-2027) include (e.g.):

- Provide a continued emphasis on the full range of the regulatory mix, from awareness and education, through to norms and enforcement, with a review undertaken to ensure there is an appropriate balance in the third cycle to ensure a greater emphasis on compliance assurance activity.
- Explore opportunities for the development of a national citizen science programme

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

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/429a79-river-basin-management-plan-2018-2021/>

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

☒ C=Partially

#### 9.5 Additional information

› The Government has established a progressive policy with regards to peatlands and their role in climate mitigation. The key bogs and wetlands targets under the Governments Climate Action Plan (2021) relate to Actions # 21, 22, 23, 33 and 392 in relation to peatland restoration and rehabilitation (on a land bank of over 50,000ha).

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

<http://>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6223e-climate-action-plan-2021/peatlands-community-engagement-scheme>

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

☒ C=Partially

#### 9.6 Additional information

› A number of agri environment projects are underway which are underpinned by Results Based Payments for biodiversity actions on the farm e.g. LIFE projects and the European Innovation Partnership projects, which are local-led projects, developed with farmers and communities and covering areas such as habitat and species protection (including hen harrier, freshwater pearl mussel, corncrake)

Several projects co-funded by the Irish Government and the EU are working with farmers and other local stakeholders to improve water quality in their catchments. A number of EU co-funded European Innovation Partnership (EIP) projects, such as Mulkear EIP, Duncannon EIP and Duhallow EIP, are supporting local farmers to work collaboratively with other stakeholders to develop catchment-sensitive farming practices to improve local water quality. The Duhallow EIP has a focus on protecting and restoring high ecological status waters of the Allow river catchment, while the Duncannon EIP is specifically looking at measures to help restore the blue flag status at Duncannon beach. The Freshwater Pearl Mussel (EIP) project is incentivising farmers to adopt good land management practices to help protect the freshwater pearl mussel. The amount that farmers are paid is linked to the nature quality of their farm. The higher the nature value of their farm, the higher the payment.

The EIP, Farmpeat, launched in 2021 aims to target rewetting of grasslands surrounding raised bogs.

In 2022 a new Agri-Environment Climate Measure (AECM) scheme was announced. This scheme targets farmers with lands where water management is a priority, including River sub-basins containing waterbodies with 'high status' water objectives.

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

<https://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/map-dafm-reveals-locations-of-farms-eligible-for-e10000-in-new-aecm/>

<https://www.farmpeat.ie/>

<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/irelands-environment/state-of-environment-report-/>

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

Please select only one per square.

a) agriculture-wetland interactions	<input type="checkbox"/> C=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
-------------------------------------	--

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

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

<https://www.npws.ie/farmers-and-landowners/farming-for-nature>

### 9.7 Additional information

> While there is no single wetland policy in Ireland, there are various plans and projects where research is underway and is considering wetlands in terms of agriculture, peatlands and ecosystem services. For example, A publication Farming for Nature is relevant in terms of agriculture-wetland interactions. The EPA have produced a publication on Climate Change and Land Use in Ireland; land use cover includes wetland and peatland. A National Ecosystem and Ecosystem Service Mapping Pilot has been completed for a Suite of Prioritised Services. A publication and a StoryMap is available as a result of this pilot. Projects such as Irish Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments (INCASE) which is an EPA-funded research project and runs from 2019 until 2023 are also relevant.

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

[Irish Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments \(INCASE\)](#)

[National Ecosystem and Ecosystem Services Mapping Pilot](#)

[https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/climate-change/Research\\_Report\\_371.pdf](https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/climate-change/Research_Report_371.pdf)

<https://www.npws.ie/farmers-and-landowners/farming-for-nature>

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM95.pdf>

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

☒ B=No

### 9.9 Has your country made efforts to conserve small wetlands in line with Resolution XIII. 21?

☒ C=Partially

### 9.9 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate what actions have been implemented)

If 'Yes', please indicate what actions have been implemented

> While small wetlands are disappearing and remain at threat, some actions are underway to raise awareness of the presence of wetlands outside of protected areas (SAC, SPA, Natural Heritage Area). For example a number of Local Authority funded wetland surveys have contributed to the identification of small wetlands and to their inclusion in local wetland inventories and to the Wetland Surveys Ireland mapping tool. Many Local Authorities have Biodiversity or Heritage Officers to oversee the initiation of these surveys (e.g. Monaghan Wetlands Action Plan)

The 2011 Planning and Development (Amendment) Regulations (S.I. 454) provided for the exempted development threshold for drainage of wetlands to be reduced from 20 ha. to 0.1 ha.. It also provided for the threshold for mandatory EIA for such drainage to be reduced to 2 ha.

(Source: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/irelands-environment/state-of-environment-report/> )

This legislation has the potential to protect small wetlands. Without enforcement protection is unlikely.

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

<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/irelands-environment/state-of-environment-report/>

[Monaghan Wetlands Action Plan](#)

## Target 10

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

[Reference to Aichi Target 18]

### 10.1 Have case studies, participation in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands been compiled. Resolution VIII.19 and Resolution IX.21? (Action 6.1.6)

☒ B=No

**10.2 Have the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands been used or applied such as (Resolution VII. 8) (Action 6.1.5)**

*Please select only one per square.*

a) stakeholders, including local communities and indigenous people are represented on National Ramsar Committees or similar bodies	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Preparation <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) involvement and assistance of indigenous people's and community-based groups, wetland education centres and non-governmental organizations with the necessary expertise to facilitate the establishment of participatory approaches	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Preparation <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

**10.2 Additional information**

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

> A representative of the Community Wetlands Forum is on the IRWC.

Representatives from the Environment Pillar (a number of NGO's), and from two other NGO's (Irish Peatland Conservation Council and Coastwatch Europe) are on the IRWC.

For many peatland sites (particularly raised bogs) there is significant local community engagement in promoting their conservation and amenity value. The Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme managed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage provides grant aid to local communities who wish to promote their local peatland.

**10.3 Traditional knowledge and management practices relevant for the wise use of wetlands have been documented and their application encouraged (Action 6.1.2)**

☒ A=Yes

**10.3 Additional information**

> Most of the documentation is archival. The Heritage Council encourages traditional management practices some of which is relevant to wetlands.

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

<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/>

**Target 11**

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

**11.1 Have ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands been researched in your country, recorded in documents like State of the Environment reporting, and the results promoted? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii**

☒ C1=Partially

**11.1 Additional information**

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

> The ecosystem services provided by wetlands is highlighted in several reports including the EPA State of Environment Report 2021 (Ireland's Environment An Integrated Assessment 2020).

A key focus of current research relates for example to Peatlands. The mid term review of the National Peatland Strategy describes the following and is available on the NPWS website:

The Peatlands Strategy Implementation Group will continue to monitor progress and provide support on initiatives designed to increase the delivery of ecosystem services of naturally functioning peatlands, in particular the EU INTERREG CABB (Ireland/UK Co-operation Across Borders for Biodiversity 2017 to 2022) and CANN (Collaboration Across Natura Network) projects; relevant Bord na Móna research projects; relevant Environmental Protection Agency and other research projects; restoration measures under the National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022 and the new Bord na Móna peatlands

enhanced decommissioning, rehabilitation and restoration scheme; actions undertaken within the EU LIFE Integrated Project 'Wild Atlantic Nature'; and other actions taken under relevant projects that may be established in the timeframe 2020-2025.

Irish Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments (INCASE) is an EPA-funded research project which started in March 2019 and will run until 2023. INCASE is the first Irish project to develop natural capital accounts for different sites in Ireland. The project team will prepare accounts for four catchments across Ireland using the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA) Central Framework and SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounts guidelines. Accounts for the four catchments will map the stocks and flows of ecosystem and geosystem services, highlight challenges, knowledge and data gaps, and recommend a framework to operationalise Natural Capital Accounting in Ireland (Source incaseproject.com).

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

<https://www.incaseproject.com/>

[Ireland's Environment An Integrated Assessment 2020](#)

<https://www.npws.ie/peatlands-and-turf-cutting/peatlands-council/national-peatlands-strategy>

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

☒ Y=Not Relevant

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

☒ C=Partially

#### 11.3 Additional information

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

> Peatlands Climate Action Scheme which aims to rehabilitate 33,000 ha of post industrial peat extraction sites is based on provision of employment opportunities for staff of Bord na Mona, under commitments to Just Transition. This is relevant to wetlands generally.

The Peatlands Community Engagement scheme operated by NPWS provides funding opportunities for communities to develop amenities around peatland sites, recognising their socio economic value.

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

☒ C=Partially

#### 11.4 Additional information

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

> Examples of this would be recognition of the cultural aspects of turf cutting as acknowledged in the National Peatlands Strategy and the Burren Beo.

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

<https://www.npws.ie/peatlands-and-turf-cutting/peatlands-council/national-peatlands-strategy>

<https://burrenbeo.com/>

## Target 12

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

12.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i

☒ C=Partially

#### 12.1 Additional information

> Priority sites have been identified as a result of Ireland's commitments to the Habitats Directive, rather than as a result of a strategic ecological and conservation rationale.

For example as a result of the Habitat Directive commitments, there is considerable focus on restoration of peatland sites and more recently as part of the Governments Climate Action Plan. Some of the projects which have taken place or are underway:

The Living Bog project (2016-2021) was the largest ever EU LIFE-funded raised bog restoration project in Ireland (including two Ramsar Sites). Implementing hydrological restoration measures on 12 of Ireland's unique raised bog SACs, restoration on these Natura 2000 sites sought to improve over 2,600 hectares of threatened raised bog habitat – the equivalent of over 20,800 Olympic-sized swimming pools. The project



provided a wide range of benefits including carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement, improvements to water quality and regulation of flood flows. (Source: <http://raisedbogs.ie/>)

LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature is a 9-year EU-funded LIFE Integrated Project, works with farmers, local communities and land owners to add value to the wide range of services provided from our Special Area of Conservation (SAC) network of blanket bogs and associated areas (including some which are Ramsar Sites). The project, coordinated by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, focuses on 24 blanket bog project sites in counties Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo and Galway.(Source: <https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie/>).

Bord na Mona are planning to restore 33,000 hectares of formerly commercially extracted raised bog to peat forming conditions. They have successfully restored 7,273 hectares of raised bog to date (sources [bordnamona.ie](http://bordnamona.ie)).

Within Peatlands and People Life Project full implementation of restoration measures will be carried out within fifteen raised bogs.

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

<https://peatlandsandpeople.ie/>

<http://bordnamona.ie>

<https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie/>

<http://raisedbogs.ie/>

12.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been effectively implemented?  
{1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i

☒ A=Yes

## 12.2 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if available the extent of wetlands restored

> Restoration projects are currently underway as described above (12.1)

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

*Please select only one per square.*

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

f) International cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
g) Implementation and support	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

### 12.3 Additional Information

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

> a) Peat soils cover around 21% of the national land area of Ireland. The original area of raised bogs in the State was approximately 311,000 ha and the original area of blanket bogs was approximately 774,000 ha. Fens were once common in Ireland but they have all been reclaimed except for some 20,000 ha of conservation importance. It has been estimated that only 10% of the original raised bog and 28% of the original blanket peatland resource are deemed suitable for conservation (natural peatlands). The main land use categories for peatlands in Ireland are:

Natural Peatlands 269,270ha; Cutover Peatlands(Affected by Domestic Turf Cutting) 612,380ha, Afforested Peatland 300,000ha, Farmed Peatland (grassland) 295,000ha, Industrial cutaway peatlands 70,000ha, Rehabilitated cutaway 18000. (Source:

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NationalPeatlandsStrategy2015EnglishVers.pdf> )

b) The National Peatland Strategy which covers the period 2015 to 2025 aims to increase awareness and understanding by the public, by land owners and by decision makers of the value of peatlands and the implications of good and bad management practices.

c) The National Peatlands Strategy sets out an overall policy on Ireland's peatlands. The National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan (2017-2022) is also relevant. The Climate Action Plan 2021 has significant targets in relation to peatland restoration and rehabilitation which are enshrined in law.

d) The National Peatlands Strategy and the Biodiversity Action Plan both refer to the wise use of peatlands and specifically to the Ramsar Global Action Plan for Peatlands.

e) The Peatlands Gathering (peatlandsgathering.com) which took place in Ireland in 2021, reported that "while there are knowledge gaps, a number of research projects are consolidating the science around how best to manage peatlands in terms of biodiversity, the appropriate hydrological measures required to reduce carbon emissions from farmed, forested and extracted peatlands, as well as how to manage and regulate water flows at the catchment scale. Work to date in Ireland and globally has shown that peatland restoration supports multiple benefits for climate, water, biodiversity, and human wellbeing".

f) There are a few examples of international cooperation. Peatland restoration work in Ireland is supported by the United Nations Environment Programme's Global Peatlands Initiative. (Source: <https://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/care-peat-carbon-loss-reduction-from-peatlands-an-integrated-approach/news/partners-across-the-planet-welcome-irish-peatland-restoration-initiative/>). Another example is Multi Peat and WaterLand.

g) The Peatlands Gathering (peatlandsgathering.com) reported that "despite a national peatland strategy and a number of EU funded farming and restoration projects, there is a need for a strategic and long-term vision in order to deliver healthy peatlands for future generations. Work in Ireland should align with the global movement to manage peatlands sustainably. This would benefit from a coherent and inclusive European peatland strategy, that would serve to guide national strategies and restoration targets across the European region".

See also EPA State of Environment Report - chapter 5: Land and Soil for developments in protecting and managing peatlands in Ireland.

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

<http://>

<https://www.waterlands.eu/>

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/details/5563>

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/National%20Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan%20English.pdf>

[https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/state-of-the-environment/EPA\\_Irelands\\_Environment\\_2020.pdf](https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/state-of-the-environment/EPA_Irelands_Environment_2020.pdf)

<https://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/care-peat-carbon-loss-reduction-from-peatlands-an-integrated-approach/news/partners-across-the-planet-welcome-irish-peatland-restoration-initiative/>

[National Peatlands Strategy](#)

### Target 13

Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban

development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods  
[Reference to Aichi Targets 6 and 7]

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 13.1 Additional information

> Strategic Environmental Assessment is needed for certain plans and programmes as required under the SEA Directive. Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment is available from the EPA. See <http://www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/>

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

<http://www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/>

13.2 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) from key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries that may affect wetlands? {1.3.4} {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii

☒ A=Yes

#### 13.2 Additional information

> Environmental Impact Assessment is required for projects which may affect wetlands. Guidance on Environmental Impact Assessment is available from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the EPA. See <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/> and <https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/environmental-assessment/environmental-impact-assessment-eia/eia-portal>

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

<http://irishwetlands.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/wetlands-leaflet-1.pdf>

EIA Portal

<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/>

### Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

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

#### Target 15

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

15.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

#### Target 16

Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness {4.1}

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 18]

16.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i

Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below

*Please select only one per square.*

a) At the national level	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress
--------------------------	--

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

### 16.1 Additional information

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

> d) Catchment/basin level - through Local Authority Waters Programme (<https://lawaters.ie/>)

e) Local/site level - through local authority initiatives e.g. Monaghan Wetland Action Plan (<https://monaghan.ie/heritage/monaghan-wetlands-action-plan/>)

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

Monaghan Wetlands Action Plan

LOCAL AUTHORITY WATERS PROGRAMME

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

{4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ F=Less than (centres)

> 10

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

{4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

b) at other wetlands

☒ F=Less than (centres)

> 20

### 16.2 Additional information

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

> There are education and/or visitor centres at several Ramsar sites e.g. Coole Park, Clara Bog, Bull Island, Lough Boora Park, St Killians Centre, Mullagh (Kilyconny Bog SAC), Mountbellew (Carrownagappul Bog SAC), Cabragh Centre, Ballybay Wetland Centre, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, Ballycroy National Park Centre, Glenveagh National Park Visitor Centre,

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

Please select only one per square.

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

### 16.3 Additional information

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

> These objectives are/will be largely achieved through cross sectoral representation on the Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee and feedback to parent organisations.

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

☒ A=Yes

16.4 Additional information

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

> The IRWC is comprised of the following: Heritage Officers, Office of Public Works, Teagasc, Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Community Wetlands Forum, Dept Housing Local Government and Heritage, Coastwatch Europe, National Biodiversity Data Centre, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dept Agriculture, Food and Marine, BirdWatch Ireland (representing the Environment Pillar), Environment Protection Agency, Inland Fisheries Ireland.

The IRWC seeks to meet 3-4 times a year, with at least one meeting combined with a visit to a wetland site.

The IRWC Terms of Reference state the following:

The committee will seek to support the implementation of the three objectives of the Ramsar Convention. It will undertake this task through the following measures.

Strategically, it will:

- Provide a coordinated mechanism for increasing awareness of the Convention's approach to wetland and water-related issues
- Link policy makers with policy implementers
- Promote guidance on the 'wise use of wetlands'

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

[Website of the Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee](#)

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

☒ Y=Not Relevant

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

*Please select only one per square.*

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

16.6 Additional information

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

> There is a website which provides information on the implementation of Committee actions [irishwetlands.ie](http://irishwetlands.ie)

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

[Website of the Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee](#)

16.7 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP13? {4.1.8}

☒ A=Yes

16.7 Additional information

> World Wetland Day events are promoted on [irishwetlands.ie](http://irishwetlands.ie) annually since 2018

Launch of video series for WWD 2020

Launch of wetland photo competition for WWD 2020

Events hosted by the Ramsar Committee for WWD 2021

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

16.8 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP13 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}

☒ A=Yes

#### 16.8 Additional information

If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this

- > Community Wetlands Handbook - This handbook was produced by the Community Wetlands Forum (CWF) as part of a small scale study funded by the EPA under its IRWC remit. It is a very useful resource for any community group involved in wetland conservation or management projects.
- Workshop on the Wetland Guide - workshop with the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and hosted by the Cabragh Wetland Centre on the new guide to Irish Wetland Types produced by the IRWC in 2018
- IRWC visits Pollardstown Fen - in 2018 the IRWC visited Pollardstown Fen located near Newbridge in County Kildare. Pollardstown is perhaps the biggest fen in Ireland, and a real mosaic of plant communities fed by dozens of calcareous springs.

### Target 17

Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 - 2024 from all sources are made available. {4.2.}

[Reference to Aichi Target 20]

17.1a Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2018, 2019 and 2020? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i

☒ A=Yes

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

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

☒ Z=Not Applicable

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

☒ B=No

### Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

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

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

☒ B=No

18.4 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}

☒ C=Partially

#### 18.4 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved

> Agreement with the UK Ramsar Group to collaborate on Cross Border Sites.

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

☒ A=Yes

#### 18.5 Additional information

> Through the website and through a A5 poster publication for distribution at World Wetland Day events. The NPWS website contains comprehensive information on Ireland's wetlands. Wetland Survey Ireland also has comprehensive accounts of Irish wetlands.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Wetlands\\_Final\\_Artwork\\_fromNPWS.pdf](#) - A5 Poster of Irish Ramsar Sites

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

<https://www.wetlandsurveys.ie/>

[Ramsar Sites in Ireland](#)

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

☒ D=Planned

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

☒ D=Planned

#### 18.7 Additional information

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

> Where there are cross border wetlands cooperation with the UK Ramsar Group on these sites is planned.

18.8 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii

☒ B=No

#### 18.8 Additional information

> The IRWC had agreed to participate in the NW Regional Ramsar Initiative, however the initiative did not proceed.

## Target 19

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 17]

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

☒ B=No

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

☒ B=No

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ E=Exact number (opportunities)

> 0

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

b) at other wetlands

☒ E=Exact number (Opportunities)

> 0

19.4 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii

☒ B=No



