

**14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties  
to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

**“Wetlands Actions for People and Nature”  
Wuhan, China and Geneva, Switzerland, 5-13 November 2022**

**Ramsar COP14 Doc.9.1**

**Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention:  
Global implementation**

**Introduction**

1. The present report covers the implementation of the Convention from the closing of the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP13) on 29 October 2018, until 21 January 2021. It is published in accordance with Rules 9.a) and 26.3 of the Rules of Procedure, and based on the national reports submitted by Contracting Parties to COP14 to assess the progress and challenges in implementing the Convention’s Strategic Plan for 2016-2024. The activities of the Secretariat to implement its Work Plan are presented in document COP14 Doc.9.2.
2. The data and findings are drawn from the 122 reports received as of the end of the reporting period. Fifty two percent of the national reports were submitted as Microsoft Word files and 48% through the online reporting system. As of 5 August 2022, 124 national reports had been received in total.
3. According to the Environmental Conventions Index, the Convention on Wetlands exemplifies the importance of the availability of data through national reports. Despite a large number of questions the average national reporting rate for the Convention is 88%, the highest among four Conventions in the analysis made in 2020<sup>1</sup>.
4. National reports received can be consulted on the Convention website at:  
[https://www.ramsar.org/search?sort=field\\_sort\\_title&order=asc&f%5B0%5D=type%3Adocument&f%5B1%5D=field\\_document\\_type%3A532&f%5B2%5D=field\\_tag\\_body\\_event%3A366&f%5B3%5D=field\\_tag\\_body\\_event%3A2634&search\\_api\\_views\\_fulltext](https://www.ramsar.org/search?sort=field_sort_title&order=asc&f%5B0%5D=type%3Adocument&f%5B1%5D=field_document_type%3A532&f%5B2%5D=field_tag_body_event%3A366&f%5B3%5D=field_tag_body_event%3A2634&search_api_views_fulltext).
5. Besides assessing the progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 in the last triennium, the present report presents the main contributions of the Convention to the achievement of other global processes such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs; see Annex 4 *How the Ramsar Strategic Plan supports the SDGs and Aichi Targets* for a summary of the links between the different goals). The Secretariat’s report *Wetlands and the SDGs: Scaling up wetland conservation, wise use and restoration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals* highlights the critical role of wetlands in relation to the SDGs and can be consulted at:  
<https://www.ramsar.org/document/wetlands-and-the-sdgs>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Environmental Conventions Index. Centre for Governance and Sustainability. Escobar-Pemberthy and Ivanova 2020. John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston.

6. Resolution XII.2 on *The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024* encourages Contracting Parties in paragraph 22 “to develop and submit to the Secretariat on or before December 2016, and according to their national priorities, capabilities and resources, their own quantifiable and time-bound national and regional targets in line with the targets set in the Strategic Plan”. For COP14 the deadline for submission of national and regional targets was 24 January 2020.
7. Accordingly, 3% of Contracting Parties (one from Africa and four from Asia) submitted their national targets (Section 4 of the national report form, *Optional annex on national targets*) to the Secretariat by the deadline. The limited number of Parties providing information did not allow for statistical inference. By the deadline of 21 January 2021 for submission of full national reports to COP14, 38% of Parties that submitted reports had indicated their priorities. The priority targets identified by these Parties, main outcomes and the resources available to them are summarized in Annex 3 of the present document.
8. Where possible, the evolution of the implementation of the Convention over a longer period has been analyzed by comparing indicators provided in national reports to successive meetings of the COP since COP10 in 2008. For the analysis of more recent indicators, the findings of the 122 national reports to COP14 have been compared with those of the 140 national reports submitted for COP13.
9. The Convention’s Strategic Plan 2016-2024 established 14 priority areas of focus for the Convention over the nine-year period. Nineteen targets and 35 indicators were identified and cross-referenced to these priority areas.
10. Analysis of the progress reported against the indicators and targets of the Strategic Plan revealed that the main progress achieved by Contracting Parties has related to:
  - incorporation of wetlands benefits into other national strategies and planning processes;
  - the assessment of water allocation for wetlands;
  - establishment and review of national policies on invasive species control and management;
  - growth of the network of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites);
  - wetlands policies;
  - wetlands as natural water infrastructure;
  - application of cultural values of wetlands;
  - identification of priority sites for restoration and implementation of restoration programmes, plans or projects; and
  - establishment of communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) plans, mechanisms in place to share the Convention guidelines with different stakeholders and World Wetlands Day activities (See Annex 1).
11. The areas in which less progress has been made are:
  - the incorporation of wetland issues and benefits into productive sectors (mining, energy, tourism);
  - removal of perverse incentives;
  - implementation of management plans, assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management, reports to the Secretariat on Article 3.2; and
  - establishment of collaborative mechanisms to involve national focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and global and regional bodies and assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention.

12. The areas in which there appears to have been a major decrease in implementation since COP13 are:
- assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management;
  - projects that contribute to poverty alleviation;
  - incorporation of wetlands in national agriculture forest programmes;
  - operation of national or Ramsar wetlands committees; and
  - financial assistance and capacity building.

### **Main achievements since COP13 and priorities for 2023-2025**

13. The topics presented below follow the structure of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 (adopted through Resolution XII.2). As noted above as far as possible, the evolution of the implementation of the Convention is analyzed by comparing the indicators provided in national reports to earlier meetings of the COP with the national report indicators provided for COP14.

### **Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation**

**Target 1: Wetland benefits are featured in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, and aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level. (Indicator 1.1 {1.3.2} {1.3.3})**

- **The incorporation of wetland benefits into national strategies and planning processes has progressed slowly.**
14. Most of the Parties that submitted their national report to COP14 have incorporated wetlands in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans drawn up under the CBD and in national policies (84%), or in strategies for wetland management (65%); these figures are similar to those reported for COP13.
15. In the water sector, 66% of the Parties that submitted their report to COP14 reported that they have incorporated wetlands in water resource management and water efficiency plans, an increase from 59% for COP13; and 63% confirmed that they have plans for pollution control and management and wastewater management and water quality (an increase from 46% for COP13).
16. The incorporation of wetland benefits in plans relating to agriculture has decreased, as 44% of Parties reporting to COP14 have taken actions on these matters compared to 48% for COP13. However, the inclusion of wetlands in national policies on aquaculture and fisheries showed some progress, with 59% of Parties reporting actions compared to 50% for COP13.
17. The incorporation of wetland benefits into plans for coastal and marine resource management has increased slightly, as 52% of the Parties reporting to COP14 reported that they have taken action on this matter, compared with 43% for COP13.
18. Concerning the integration of wetland benefits into poverty eradication strategies, the findings for COP14 are similar to COP12 and COP13, with 31% of the Parties reporting having taken action.
19. Regarding the sectors listed in Target 1, there has been little progress in the energy, mining, urban development, infrastructure and industry sectors, as 33% of the Parties reporting to

COP14 confirmed the incorporation of wetlands issues into national policies for these sectors, compared to 27% of Parties reporting positive actions for COP13.

20. The largest losses of wetlands have continued to result from unsustainable agriculture, forestry and extractive industries, the impacts of population growth and changes in land use that override environmental considerations. With “preventing, stopping and reversing the loss and degradation of wetlands” one of the priority areas of focus of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024, addressing the drivers behind these pressures on wetlands is not only a condition for limiting their impacts, but also requires that wetland resources and wetland ecosystem benefits are valued and integrated within sectoral policies and decision-making processes.
21. Action by Parties on Target 1 also contribute to Aichi Target 2: “By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.”

**Target 2: Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale *inter alia* at the basin level or along a coastal zone. (Indicators 2.1, 2.4)**

- **There has been steady progress in the application of measures and good practices in water allocation for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands.**
22. Twenty five percent of the Contracting Parties reporting to COP14 reported that they have assessed the quantity and quality of water available and required by wetlands in response to the *Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands*, which were adopted in 2002 (Resolutions VIII.1 and VIII.2). A further 55% reported that they are in the process of doing so. This indicates slow but steady progress since COP13, when the respective percentages were 17% assessed and 47% in progress.
  23. More than half of the Parties (53%) reporting to COP14 reported that they are developing projects promoting and demonstrating good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands. An additional 40% recognized that they need to develop more such projects, while 7% indicated that they are still not yet developing such projects. This shows progress since COP13, when 44% of the Contracting Parties reported progress against this indicator.
  24. Even though there has been steady progress in the selected indicators for this Target, further effort is still needed to provide the required Convention guidance on water allocation and management for ecosystems as well as the implementation of projects to support decision-making on water resource management and thus improve water use according to ecosystem requirements.
  25. The efforts of Parties against this Target also contribute to the implementation of Resolution XII.12, on *Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future*, Aichi Target 7: “By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity” and Aichi Target 8: “By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity”.

**Target 3: The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.**

- **The extent of activities undertaken by the private sector for the conservation, wise use and management of Ramsar Sites and wetlands in general has slightly increased since the last triennium.**
  - **Progress to introduce positive incentives and remove perverse incentives for conservation and wise use of wetlands remains slow.**
26. The number of Parties who reported that the private sector is undertaking activities for the conservation, wise use and management of Ramsar Sites and wetlands in general has increased slightly from 46% for COP13 to 55% for COP14 for Ramsar Sites, and from 41% to 45% from COP13 to COP14 for wetlands in general. However, this is still well below the baseline at COP12 under Target 3 of the Strategic Plan for 2016-2024, which is 60% of Parties reporting positively on private sector engagement for wetlands in general.
27. According to COP14 national reports, 55% of Parties have taken actions to implement incentive measures that encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands (COP13: 52%), and 7% of Parties report that they have planned actions. Many Parties have introduced compensation programmes such as contract-based nature conservation payment for ecosystem services, establishment of an eco-compensation mechanism for wetlands, or a hardship compensation scheme. Several have introduced government grant schemes such as national environmental funds or voluntary agreements between land users and official authorities.
28. For COP14, 38% of reporting Parties have taken actions to remove perverse incentive measures that discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands, and 17% reported having planned such actions. These numbers have been consistent for national reports from COP12 onwards. Under the Strategic Plan for 2016-2024, more efforts are needed from a wider number of Parties to remove perverse measures that discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands.
29. As noted in the Global Implementation Report for COP13, steps taken by Parties in relation to these indicators contribute to Aichi Target 3: “By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions” and Aichi Target 4: “By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits”.

**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.**

- **Progress in conducting national inventories remains slow, while the rate of review of national policies on invasive wetland species is slightly increasing.**
30. Concerning invasive alien species, 42% of Parties reporting to COP14 reported that they have a national inventory, representing a slight increase from COP13 (40%) and showing a progressive

slow increase since COP12. For COP14, 42% of the Parties have established or reviewed national policies or guidelines on invasive wetland species as compared to 26% for COP13.

31. Sixteen percent of Contracting Parties reporting to COP14 have assessed the effectiveness of programmes to control invasive alien species in wetlands, representing a slight increase from COP13 (11%).
32. In terms of Ramsar Sites, 34% of all designated Sites (839) are threatened by invasive alien species or other problematic species. In this regard, it is important that Parties continue making efforts to conduct national inventories on invasive alien species and that actions are taken to control or eradicate them as well as to put in place mechanisms to prevent their introduction and establishment.
33. Fifty three percent of Parties reported to COP14 that they have successfully controlled invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems. For COP13, 19% of Parties reported actions to control invasive species through management actions.
34. The above actions in this Target contribute directly to Aichi Target 9: “By 2020 invasive alien species prevented and controlled”, and in particular to indicators related to the number of species, policy responses, legislation and management plans to control and prevent the spread of invasive alien species. They will also contribute to the Target on alien species of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that is being prepared.
35. This target on invasive alien species is also very relevant to the SDGs, in particular SDG 15: “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss” and its Target 15.5: “Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species”.
36. Given that most of the Aichi Targets were not achieved and the short timeframe to achieve the SDGs, there is a need to continue strengthening actions and coordinate efforts to make effective progress on this target to prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive alien species.

## **Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network**

### **Target 5: The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.**

- **The effective planning and integrated management of Ramsar Sites shows no significant progress.**
37. Eighty-eight percent of Contracting Parties reporting to COP14 reported a total of 1,493 Ramsar Sites with management plans, with 84% indicating that 1,348 plans are being implemented. For COP13, the comparable figures were 84% of Parties (1,146 Sites) with management plans and 82% of Parties implementing them. However, according to the Ramsar Sites Information Service, as at 30 June 2022, 50% (1,222) of the current 2,439 designated Ramsar Sites have a management plan, and these plans are reported as effectively implemented at 37% (908) of the Sites.

38. It is not known whether these higher percentages being reported by Contracting Parties through national reports for COP14 are accurate, reflecting a lack of updated information on Ramsar Sites submitted to the Secretariat.
39. Thirty percent of Parties reporting to COP14 reported that they have assessed all Ramsar Sites regarding their management effectiveness, showing a slight increase from the 23% of Parties reporting to COP13.
40. Given the slow progress on the effective planning and integrated management of Ramsar Sites, it is important that Contracting Parties increase their efforts to implement the various guidelines and tools available to them for the management of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, such as Resolution XII.15 on *Evaluation of the management and conservation effectiveness of Ramsar Sites*.
41. The preparation and implementation of management plans, and assessment of the effectiveness of their management, are fundamental to the wise use of Ramsar Sites.
42. The related actions taken by Parties under this Target also contribute to Aichi Targets: Target 6, on sustainable management of marine living resources; Target 11, on increase and improvement of protected areas; and Target 12, on prevention of extinction.

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

- **The Ramsar Site network continues to grow, contributing to the conservation of under-represented wetland types and the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.**
43. Since COP13, 125 new Ramsar Sites have been added to the List of Wetlands of International Importance, making a total of 2,439 Sites covering 254,689,088 hectares on 30 June 2022 (for details see document COP14 Doc.10 Rev.1<sup>2</sup>). Among all Sites, many include under-represented wetland types as originally identified in Resolution VIII.11 *Additional guidance for identifying and designated underrepresented wetland types as Wetlands of International Importance*, such as mangroves (304 Sites), reefs (110 Sites), seagrass beds (294 Sites), forested peatlands (288 Sites), non-forested peatlands (575 Sites), tundra (25) and Alpine wetlands (61) with peat or irrigated lands including wet grasslands (183). Another 51 new Ramsar Site designations are currently being processed by the Secretariat.
  44. Since COP13, 42 existing Ramsar Sites were extended through the addition of substantial wetland area (see document COP14 Doc.10). No Ramsar Site was deleted from the List or had its boundary restricted without compensation, because of urgent national interest, in accordance with Article 2.5 of the Convention.
  45. Two additional Transboundary Ramsar Sites have been named since COP13, in Africa, making a total of 22 Transboundary Ramsar Sites established in line with Article 5 of the Convention.
  46. A matter of concern is the lack of regular updating of Ramsar Sites information, as requested through Resolution XIII.10 on *Status of Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International*

---

<sup>2</sup> COP14 Doc.10 Rev.1 *Report of the secretariat pursuant to article 8.2 on the list of wetlands of international importance*, <https://www.ramsar.org/document/cop14-doc10-rev1-report-of-the-secretariat-pursuant-to-article-82-on-the-list-of-wetlands>.

*Importance* and several earlier Resolutions. For three Ramsar Sites out of four (75% of all Sites, 1,826 Sites) the information provided in the publicly accessible RIS is currently out of date, being last updated more than six years ago. It is however recognized that since COP13, 42 Parties have provided updated information for 221 Ramsar Sites (9% of all Sites), and that information on more than 600 additional Sites is currently being processed by the Secretariat.

47. At of 30 June 2022, for 40 Sites either no Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) or no map has been provided since their designation. The number of these Sites increased from 33 at the time of COP13.

**Target 7: Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.**

- **The risk of change of ecological character of Ramsar Sites is increasing.**
48. 28% of Parties reporting to COP14 have reported to the Secretariat all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of their Ramsar Sites, in line with Article 3.2 of the Convention. This is a slight increase from COP13 and COP12 when 21% of Parties reported this.
49. At the time of COP13, 168 Ramsar Sites had an open Article 3.2 file, indicating that ongoing human interference or pollution was likely to negatively change their ecological character. Since COP13, 152 such cases including 12 new cases were reported by Parties, while it was possible to resolve the issues for 28 Ramsar Sites (for details see document COP14 Doc.10).
50. Resolving cases of negative human interference at Ramsar Sites is taking very long, as has already been stressed in the report to COP13. At COP14, for 97 Ramsar Sites among the 152 with an open Article 3.2 file, Parties have not provided any updated information for more than five years (since 2017), and for 14 additional Sites, the latest information provided by Parties dates back more than two years. Parties are urged to report to each annual meeting of the Standing Committee the status of these Sites and any steps taken to address negative changes to their ecological character.

**Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands**

**Target 8: National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.**

- **Wetland inventories present limited progress but are fundamental for SDGs.**
  - **The condition of wetlands in general is deteriorating.**
51. 46% of Contracting Parties reporting to COP14 have completed national wetland inventories (NWIs: see Table 1 below). This finding is very similar to COP13 (44%) and COP12 (47%).
52. Across the six regions, there is no conclusive pattern in terms of progress in completing NWIs. North America (67% for COP14 and COP13) is the region with the highest percentage of Parties having completed inventories. In Europe, 62% of the Parties reported having completed national wetlands inventories for COP13, but only 50% for COP14. Asia presents steady progress with 58% for COP14, compared to 30% for COP13. In Africa there has been a slight increase to 45% of Parties for COP14, compared to 35% for COP13. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 43% of Parties reporting to COP14 had done so, compared to 41% for COP13. In Oceania, 33%



of Parties reporting to COP14 had done so, compared to 50% of Parties for COP13, making it the region with the lowest percentage of Parties having completed NWIs .

*Table 1. Status of National Wetlands inventories for COP14*

	<b>122 National Reports to COP14</b>	<b>140 National Reports to COP13</b> from the Global Implementation Report
NWI completed	46%	44%
NWI in progress	27%	29%
NWI planned	12%	10%
NWI not undertaken	14%	16%
Not answers		%

53. Concerning wetland extent (SDG Indicator 6.6.1 “Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time”), 52% of the Parties provided data for COP14. Based on the data submitted and Decision SC57-47 on wetland inventories, the Secretariat has continued to support Parties in developing wetlands inventories and completing and refining information on wetland extent that is available in existing inventories but has not been reported. Refinement of the data includes reporting on wetland type using the three main categories in the Ramsar classification: inland, marine and coastal, and human-made wetlands. Through this mechanism, national validated data using accepted international definitions of wetlands is provided to measure the extent of water-related ecosystems under SDG 6.
54. The Secretariat has developed and launched a toolkit for use by Contracting Parties that includes best practices and addresses the identified gaps in knowledge through the provision of guidance, support and resources including Earth observation tools to complete wetland inventories and report on wetland extent: see <https://www.ramsar.org/news/a-new-toolkit-for-national-wetlands-inventories>. The Secretariat also undertook training sessions for Contracting Parties in November 2020 on wetlands inventories and reporting on wetland extent to support the preparation of their national reports to COP14. An update of the activities undertaken is provided in document SC59 Doc.9 on *Urgent challenges to the wise use of wetlands to receive enhanced attention: update in the development of wetland inventories and other challenges*.<sup>3</sup>
55. Concerning the condition of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, 58% of Parties reporting to COP14 reported that the condition of their Ramsar Sites has not changed, 19% that it is deteriorating and 20% that it is improving. These results are very similar to COP13, where 61% of Parties reported that the condition of their Ramsar Sites has not changed during the previous triennium, 18% that it was deteriorating, and 19% that it was improving.
56. For wetlands in general, 40% of Parties reported to COP14 no change in the condition, 43% that it is deteriorating and 14% that it is improving. At COP13, 50% of Parties reported no change, 38% that it was deteriorating, and 9% that it was improving.

**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.**

- **The preparation of wetland policies has increased, however not all Parties seem to have such a policy or similar instrument fully in place yet.**

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc59-doc9-urgent-challenges-to-the-wise-use-of-wetlands-to-receive-enhanced-attention>.

- **The water governance and management of wetlands as natural infrastructure integral to water resource management is steady increasing.**
  - **Wetlands play a critical role in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and represent a major opportunity for countries seeking to meet their targets under the Paris Agreement on climate change.**
57. 68% of Parties reporting to COP14 reported that they have a wetland policy or equivalent instrument that promotes the wise use of wetlands, an increase from 52% of Parties at COP13. While the number of Parties with wetland policies or similar instruments has been increasing since COP10, around 12% of all Parties reporting do not seem to have such a policy in place yet and the number of Parties preparing specific wetland policies, at 10%, seems lower than at COP13 (18%).
  58. Forty-two percent of Parties reporting to COP14 reported that they had amended existing legislation to reflect their commitments to the Convention on Wetlands. These results are higher than those reported at COP13 (36%).
  59. With the continuing loss of wetlands (40% of wetlands having been lost over the last 40 years), the achievement of Goal 1, “Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan”, requires that Contracting Parties continue taking urgent actions to develop and implement a wetland policy and/or strategy that recognizes wetland problems and includes targeted action to deal with these. Likewise, is important that Contracting Parties make more efforts to amend existing legislation to reflect their commitments to the Convention.
  60. Seventy five percent of Parties reporting to COP14 reported that wetlands are considered as natural water infrastructure, integrated into water resource management at a river-basin scale (an increase from 63% for COP13), while 11% reported that their government is planning such integration.
  61. Nonetheless, it appears that Parties do not perceive the correlation between this target and the inclusion of wetlands in water resource management strategies (Target 1), on which 68% of them reported having taken actions to integrate wetlands in water resource management.
  62. As noted to COP13, all Parties had committed, as part of their water governance and management, to be managing wetlands as natural infrastructure integral to water resource management at the river basin scale by 2015. It is important that Parties continue to make efforts to ensure that they include in their planning activities and decision-making processes policies and implementation of integrated water resource management (IWRM) applying an ecosystem-based approach, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning, and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.
  63. 55% of Parties reporting to COP14 reported that they have established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change, while 24% have partially done so. This marks a significant increase from COP13 when 42% of the Parties responded positively. Since COP12 these findings have steadily improved.
  64. Wetlands play a critical role in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and represent a major opportunity for countries seeking to meet their targets under the Paris Agreement on climate

change. A synthesis report<sup>4</sup> of all nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the interim NDC registry as at 30 July 2021 prepared by the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) found that 21% of Parties to the Paris Agreement refer to wetlands in their specific priority areas and sub-areas for domestic mitigation measures in NDCs.

65. Parties have adopted a number of Resolutions related to climate change (including Resolution X.24 on *Climate change and wetlands* and Resolution XI.14 on *Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*) and disaster risk reduction (Resolution XII.13 on *Wetlands and disaster risk reduction*) that affirmed the role of healthy wetlands in increasing resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, as well as ensuring climate change responses that would not lead to serious damage to the ecological character of wetlands. Resolution XII.13 encourages Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to integrate wetland-based disaster risk reduction and management into national strategic plans and all relevant policies and planning and environmental and water management at all levels of government.
66. Actions to enhance the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change also contribute to Aichi Target 10: “By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning”; to SDG 13: “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”; and to SDG Target 13.2: “Integrate climate change into national policies, strategies and planning”.

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

- **The compilation of case studies, participation in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands indicates substantial progress.**
67. Forty-five percent of Parties reporting to COP14 reported that they are compiling case studies, participation in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands, in accordance with Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21. A further 33% indicated that they are planning to do so. This indicates substantial progress since COP13, where 32% of Parties reported positive actions on this indicator.

**Target 11: Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.**

- **Meaningful progress in the assessment of wetland functions, services and benefits is being made.**
68. Contracting Parties that have made assessments of the ecosystem services of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands have continue to increase from 19% for COP12, 24% for COP13 and 32% for COP14. The percentage of Contracting Parties that have yet to take assessments has dropped significantly from 19% for COP13 to 8% for COP14.

---

<sup>4</sup> See [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2021\\_08E.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2021_08E.pdf).

69. As the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands report (the “TEEB report”, 2013) indicates, wetlands provide essential water-related services such as clean water for drinking, water for agriculture, cooling water for the energy sector and regulating water quantity (for example, through flood regulation). However, ecosystem services and wetlands are being degraded at an alarming rate with an enormous social and economic impacts (such as increased risk of floods, decreased water quality, and impacts on health, cultural identity and livelihoods).
70. Wetlands are key to efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, and therefore efforts must continue in order that the full value of water and wetlands be recognized and integrated into decision-making in order to meet social, economic and environmental needs.
71. This indicator is also directly related to Aichi Target 2: “By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies.” Therefore, actions taken by Parties on this matter contribute not only to the commitments to Ramsar Strategic Plan but the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the CBD.
72. A similar percentage of Parties responded positively for COP14 (32%) as for COP13 (33%) regarding implementation of wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation or to food and water security plans.
73. Steps by Parties to develop and implement wetland programmes and projects that contribute to local and national poverty eradication objectives and food and water security plans are important, as they are directly related to SDG 2: “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”; and Aichi Target 2: “By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes”.

**Target 12: Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.**

- **Progress on restoration is slow.**
  - **Only very few Parties have started to implement Ramsar guidelines for global action on peatlands.**
74. 60% of Parties reporting to COP14 reported that they have identified priority sites for wetland restoration, a slight increase from the 54% of Parties reporting positively at COP13. 23% of Parties report that they have taken partial actions, and 8% have planned actions. More efforts must continue in the upcoming triennium as all Parties were expected to have identified priority sites for restoration, and at least half of Parties to have restoration projects underway or completed by 2015.
  75. The implementation of effective restoration or rehabilitation projects is slightly increasing, as 53% of Parties reporting to COP14 reported effective implementation of restoration projects, compared to 43% of Parties for COP13.
  76. As noted for COP13, the commitments and obligations under the Convention clearly identify wise use and the avoidance of wetland loss and degradation as high priorities. The framework

under the Convention includes guidelines to avoid, mitigate and compensate for wetland loss and degradation, which identify the options for wetland restoration.

77. As a Global Partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the Secretariat continues to actively engage in this agenda and the task forces of the aquatic and transitional ecosystems monitoring and evaluation framework and best practices. These engagements informed the consideration of SDG 6 Indicator 6.6.1 “Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time” for which the Convention is co-custodian and the indicators mentioned above of this Target of the Convention’s fourth Strategic Plan as priority indicators of the UN Decade’s monitoring framework. To mark the opening of the UN Decade on 5 June 2021, the Secretariat produced three fact sheets<sup>5</sup> highlighting the untapped potential of wetlands to assist restoration efforts by Contracting Parties, policy makers and practitioners.
78. The restoration of wetlands and their water-related services offer significant opportunities to address water management problems with sustainable and cost-effective solutions. Wise use of wetlands, including the conservation and restoration of hydrological functions, is essential to maintain an infrastructure that can help meet a wide range of policy objectives, including water security, food and energy security, and secure livelihoods for local communities (TEEB Report).
79. The commitments and actions of Parties on restoration contribute to Aichi Target 15: “By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification”, the target on restoration of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be finalized at COP15 of the CBD, and the UN Decade on Restoration.
80. Concerning the implementation of the *Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands* (Resolution VIII.17), and Resolution XII.11 on *Peatlands climate change and wise use*, Parties reported to COP14 that they are implementing the following aspects:
  - a. 16% of the Parties work on knowledge of their global peatland resources;
  - b. 22% of the Parties work on education and public awareness on peatlands;
  - c. 23% of the Parties work on policy and legislative instruments;
  - d. 19% of the Parties work on wise use of peatlands;
  - e. 16% of the Parties have research networks, regional centres of expertise or other institutional capacity on peatlands;
  - f. 25% of the Parties are engaged in international cooperation on peatlands; and
  - g. 16% of the Parties are actively supporting specific projects for the implementation of these aspects.
81. This shows a moderate, but still insufficient, level implementation of the Guidelines originally adopted through an inclusive framework 20 years ago at COP8. Only few Parties have started to implement the Ramsar guidelines for global action on peatlands that were adopted, even though maintaining peat-accumulating peatlands (mires) and restoring degraded ones is a high priority if human-induced greenhouse gas emissions are to decrease.

**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.**

---

<sup>5</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/news/wetlands-restoration-as-part-of-the-un-decade-of-ecosystem-restoration-unlocking-the-untapped>.

- **There has been significant progress in ensuring the sustainability of key productive sectors through institutionalizing Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) in policies, programmes, and development projects.**
82. The percentage of Parties reporting that they are implementing SEAs has increased from 51% for COP13 to 62% for COP14. In terms of EIAs, 89% of Parties are implementing them compared to 81% for COP13.
83. This represents significant progress in implementation of safeguards for policies, programmes and plans impacting on wetlands, and for any project in key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries which is likely to have negative impacts on the ecological character of wetlands.
84. Actions by Parties on these indicators contribute to Aichi Target 7: “By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity”.

#### **Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation**

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

- **The Convention’s scientific and technical guidance is widely disseminated.**
85. The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) implemented its activities according to its work plan for 2019-2021<sup>6</sup>, which was approved by the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting in 2019. Following the high priority tasks set out in the work plan, seven tools and guidance documents were developed (see Table 2 below). All STRP outputs are available on the Convention website in three languages (see also COP14 Doc.12 *Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel*<sup>7</sup>).
86. Two webinars were organized in 2022 to disseminate and promote use of STRP outputs: *Wetlands and climate change*<sup>8</sup>, attended by 319 participants and viewed 600 times on YouTube as of 8 September 2022; and *Wetlands and agriculture*<sup>9</sup>, attended by 323 participants and viewed 182 times on YouTube as of the same date.
87. At that date the STRP outputs prepared during the present triennium had been downloaded 9,419 times since being published on the website in the last quarter of 2021 or the first quarter of 2022. The *Global Wetland Outlook: Special edition 2021* was the most downloaded, with 8,095 downloads (see Table 2). There has been a 36.7% increase in downloads of STRP products compared with the 2016-2018 triennium (Table 3). The most downloaded STRP products (not including the *Global Wetland Outlook*) are presented in Table 4.

<sup>6</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/work-plan-of-the-scientific-and-technical-review-panel-for-2019-2021>.

<sup>7</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/cop14-doc12-report-of-the-chair-of-the-scientific-and-technical-review-panel>.

<sup>8</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/resources/webinar-wetlands-and-climate-change>.

<sup>9</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/resources/webinar-agriculture-and-wetlands>.

88. From November 2018 until August 2022, there were 22,772 unique views of STRP pages, with 12,269 in English, 1,433 in French and 9,070 in Spanish. This covers the Policy Briefs, Briefing Notes, Technical Reports, Handbooks, *Global Wetland Outlook*, the STRP landing page, STRP resources and STRP outputs pages. The *Global Wetland Outlook* microsite had 44,073 unique views, with 11,756 of these, or 26.6%, since the launch of the *Global Wetland Outlook: Special edition 2021* on 15 December 2021.

Table 2. STRP outputs for the 2019-2021 triennium and total number of downloads (from the last quarter of 2021 up to 5 August 2022)

Publication	Downloads
Global Wetland Outlook: Special edition 2021	8,095
Policy Brief 5. Restoring drained peatlands: A necessary step to achieve global climate goals	197
Policy Brief 6. Transforming agriculture to sustain people and wetlands	156
Briefing Note 11. Practical peatland restoration	147
Briefing Note 12. The contribution of blue carbon ecosystems to climate change mitigation	388
Briefing Note 13. Wetlands and agriculture: impacts of farming practices and pathways to sustainability	144
Technical Report 11. Global guidelines for peatland rewetting and restoration	292

Table 3. Total number of unique downloads across STRP product types during the 2019-2021 triennium and change against the 2016-2018 triennium (not including *Global Wetland Outlook*)

Type	Total	English	French	Spanish	Change
Policy Briefs	2,039	1,626	108	305	+80.6%
Briefing Notes	14,198	6,298	2,131	5,769	+25.2%
Technical Reports	6,120	5,036	174	910	+63.3%
Ramsar Handbooks	42,954	19,777	4,291	18,686	+33.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,311</b>	<b>32,737</b>	<b>6,704</b>	<b>25,670</b>	<b>+36.7%</b>

Table 4. Most downloaded STRP publications (total number of unique downloads, not including *Global Wetland Outlook*)

Type	Report	Total	English	French	Spanish
Briefing Note 7	<i>State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People</i>	9,486	2,863	1,980	4,643
Handbook 1	<i>An Introduction to the Convention on Wetlands</i>	8,507	3,235	1,298	3,974
Technical Report 3	<i>Valuing wetlands: Guidance for valuing the benefits derived from wetland ecosystem services</i>	1,017	607	102	308
Technical Report 10*	<i>The use of Earth Observation for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring</i>	702	702	-	-
Policy Brief 2	<i>Integrating multiple wetland values into decision-making</i>	482	380	25	77

\* only available in English.

**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.**

- **Contracting Parties are actively promoting regional cooperation through Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs).**
89. Through paragraph 11 of Resolution XIII.9, COP13 endorsed 19 RRIs as operating in the framework of the Convention until COP14. At the resumed session of its 59th meeting, the Standing Committee approved one additional initiative in the Southern African Development Community region as the newest RRI (Decision SC59/2022-09).
90. About 66% of Parties that submitted national reports to COP14 have been involved in the development and implementation of an RRI under the framework of the Convention. A further 5% of Parties report that they are developing or planning such an initiative for their region. These responses are consistent with those submitted for COP13.
91. The Standing Committee through Decision SC59/2022-11 took note of the summary assessment of the operations and achievements of the RRIs operating during the period 2019-2021 contained in Annex 3 of document SC59 Doc.21.2 prepared by the Secretariat for its consideration in line with paragraph 28 of Resolution XIII.9.
92. Parties are using RRIs as a regional mechanism to promote regional cooperation, consolidate CEPA activities and enhancing policy coherence. Annual reports submitted by RRIs show that on a yearly basis, over 100 projects on policy and CEPA activities are undertaken through RRIs.

**Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.**

- **The preparation of national and site-level CEPA plans remains limited.**
  - **The establishment and operation of national Ramsar/wetlands committees is declining.**
  - **Progress in establishing other mechanisms to communicate with Ramsar Site managers, ministries and other MEA national focal points is slow.**
  - **World Wetlands Day activities, campaigns and programmes to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands continue to be widespread.**
93. Action plans for wetland CEPA are in place in 35% of Parties reporting to COP14 (an increase from the 24% reported at COP13). This improvement in CEPA planning at the national level is likely to contribute to a better focus on key priorities.
94. Sixty-one percent of Parties reported to COP14 that communication mechanisms are in place to share Convention guidance and information with site managers, other MEA focal points and other ministries, departments and agencies. This figure, while improved from 50% at COP13, remains concerning, as such mechanisms are critical to support site managers in their management of Wetlands of International Importance, and to engage relevant agencies in understanding and implementing the Convention.



95. Regarding operational cross-sectoral national Ramsar/wetland committees, a decrease has been reported over time, from 63% at COP12, to 49% at COP13 and 46% in this reporting period. This is also of concern, as these committees are an important tool to integrate wetland conservation and wise use into national policy considerations, and ensure decision-making takes account of the ecological services provided by wetlands. In particular, Targets 1 and 13 of the Strategic Plan encourage Contracting Parties to feature wetland benefits in national/local policies and plans relating to key sectors, and to enhance the sustainability of key sectors when they affect wetlands.
96. 91% of Parties reporting to COP14 had branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, carried out in the country since COP13. This is a slight increase compared to 87% reported to COP13.
97. World Wetlands Day continues to be a powerful platform to raise national awareness about wetlands. Over the triennium the Secretariat noted a steady increase in the number of events organized by Parties and other environmental organizations. A transition to virtual events, especially during the COVID-19 epidemic, ensured that there was minimal impact on the events registered on the Secretariat’s map of events, as shown below at Table 5. It is hoped that this trend will continue upwards and even more countries and organizations will observe World Wetlands Day, considering its new status as an International Day, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2021.

*Table 5: Reported World Wetlands Day activities*

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Theme	<i>Wetlands and Climate change</i>	<i>Wetlands and Biodiversity</i>	<i>Wetlands and Water</i>	<i>Wetlands Action for People and nature</i>
Number of events reported <i>Source: World Wetlands Day Website</i>	1,495	1,595	1,139	1,591
Number of participating countries <i>Source: World Wetlands Day Website</i>	108	85	82	86
Number of visits to the WWD website <i>Source: Google analytics</i>	35,000	50,000	48,134	73,000
Social media reach (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube) <i>Source: Meltwater</i>	496 million	439 million	1.3 billion	3.5 billion

**Target 17: Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available.**

- **Non-core financial contributions for the implementation of the Convention are declining.**
98. Sixteen percent of Parties reported to COP14 that they had provided additional financial support through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities listed in Annex 3 of the Resolution XIII.2. This is a slight decrease compared to 19% reported to COP13.
99. Secretariat financial records indicate that a total of CHF 887K was received for non-core activities during the triennium 2019-2021. Voluntary contributions from the Contracting Parties

(Finland, Germany, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States of America) represent 76%, while the contributions from the private sector (Danone) and foundations (Nagao Wetland Foundation) represent 14% and 10% respectively.

100. Twenty-nine percent of Parties reported to COP14 that they had received funding support from development assistance agencies for national wetlands conservation and management. This is a slight increase compared to 28% of Parties reporting to COP13.
101. Eleven percent of Contracting Parties that have a development assistance agency or are “donor countries”, and have provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries, reported that they have included environmental safeguards and assessments in development proposals. This is the same as the percentage reported to COP13.
102. Twenty-five percent of Parties reported to COP14 that they have provided financial support to the implementation of the Strategic Plan. This is a slight increase compared to 23% of Parties reporting to COP13.
103. During the last triennium the Secretariat undertook efforts to raise funds for non-core activities according to the priorities approved by Parties in Annex 3 of Resolution XIII.2 on *Financial and Budgetary matters*. The Secretariat also continued to fundraise for COP14 delegates’ travel. However, this report does not include the funds raised towards this effort due to postponement of COP14 to November 2022. The report on fundraising for COP14 will be reported in the next financial reports to the Standing Committee.

**Target 18: International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.**

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

104. Concerning international cooperation, 41% of Parties reported to COP14 that national focal points of other MEAs are invited to participate in the national Ramsar/wetlands committee, and the same percentage of Parties indicated the existence of collaboration mechanisms between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Focal Point of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies. For COP13 the results were similar, with 42% of Parties responding positively in both cases.
105. However, COP14 national reports show that 40% of Parties have received assistance from one or more UN or other global or regional body or agency or the Convention’s International Organization Partners in their implementation of the Convention. This is a decrease from COP13, when 47% of Parties reporting indicated they had received such assistance. The reports do not provide insight as to the reason for the decline.

**Target 19: Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 is enhanced.**

106. Eighteen percent of Parties reporting to COP14 have assessed their national and local training needs to implement the Convention. This result is similar to COP13 when 17% of Parties

reported having made these assessments. A further 11% of Parties indicate that they are planning to do so, while 25% have made partial assessments.

107. Thirty seven percent of Parties reporting to COP14 have included wetland conservation and wise-use issues in formal education programmes. This result shows an increase from COP13, where 20% of the Parties reported positively on this indicator. At the same time, 39% of the Parties have partially done so, while 7% of Parties plan to include wetland conservation and wise-use issues in formal education programmes. These results are similar to those for COP13.
108. Concerning training, 40% of Parties reported to COP14 that a total of 100 opportunities were offered to wetland site managers since COP13 in Ramsar Sites. This is a decrease from COP13, when 44% of Parties offered 160 training opportunities.
109. Thirty four percent of Parties reported to COP14 that 83 training opportunities have been offered at other wetlands. This is a decrease from COP13, when 44% of Parties offered 160 training opportunities.

## Gender

110. According to paragraph 21 of Resolution XIII.18 on *Gender and wetlands*, 79% of Parties reporting to COP14 provided some description of general or specific actions related to gender balance and women’s empowerment to participate in decisions, programmes or research, with only 29% of these respondents providing sex-disaggregated information specific to wetland-related activities. 6% of Parties reported an absence of information on gender balance, while 15% did not respond.
111. The Secretariat remains committed to advancing SDG 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” and mainstreaming gender considerations across the activities and meetings of the Convention.
112. In February 2021, the Secretariat published guidelines with supporting case studies to assist Contracting Parties to mainstream gender in their work in wetland conservation and wise use in support of implementation of Resolution XIII.18<sup>10</sup>. Contracting Parties are reminded that the guidelines are available in three languages on the Convention website.<sup>11</sup>
113. Over the triennium, the Secretariat for the first time actively monitored the registration of participants by gender at the main meetings of the governance bodies of the Convention. Table 6 below presents the sex-disaggregated data by gender.

Meeting Title	%Female	%Male	%Blank
24th meeting of the STRP	45	55	
59th meeting of the Standing Committee June 2021	52	48	
Third Extraordinary COP 2021	48	51	
Africa regional pre-COP14 meeting	34	66	
Asia and Oceania regional pre-COP14 meeting	43	57	
Americas regional pre-COP14 meeting	56	44	
Europe regional pre-COP14 meeting	56	44	
59th meeting of the Standing Committee 2022	40	38	23

<sup>10</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidance-on-mainstreaming-gender-under-the-ramsar-convention-on-wetlands-0>.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/resources/training-webinar-mainstreaming-gender-under-the-convention-on-wetlands>.

## General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

114. In Section 2, as an introduction to their national reports for COP14, the Contracting Parties provided a general summary of progress and the challenges they experienced with national implementation of the Convention during 2015-2018. The key findings are summarized in Annex 2.

## Ways forward to further enhance implementation of the Convention

115. The reported results described above highlight the need for strong efforts of Parties in the upcoming triennium to take actions to improve in the areas of assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management; projects that contribute to poverty alleviation; incorporation of wetlands in national agriculture and forest programmes; operation of national/Ramsar wetlands committees; financial assistance and capacity building, in order to achieve the Goals and Targets of the Strategic Plan and also the SDGs.

116. In Resolution XII.2 on the Strategic Plan, Parties are encouraged to prepare national priorities for implementation of the Plan. As noted in the report, only 3% of Parties submitted their national targets to the Secretariat by the deadline of 20 January 2020. For the next triennium, each Party is encouraged to establish its own priorities within the Strategic Plan, develop its own work plan for implementing them, and increase its fundraising efforts.

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

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

119. The present report provides information for reporting to the CBD on the national implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role on wetlands for the CBD.

120. The mid-term review of the Strategic Plan to be presented at COP14<sup>12</sup> in accordance with Resolution XII.2 recommends minimal refinements to the 4th Strategic Plan to maintain continuity, and the use of thematic annexes for emerging issues, including updating Annex 2 once the new Global Biodiversity Framework is agreed.

121. For the 5th Strategic Plan, the mid-term review proposes that core elements of the current Strategic Plan be retained for consistency and comparability, and that the *Global Wetland Outlook* and Global Implementation report, as well as elements external to the Convention, the

---

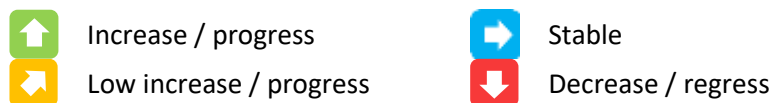
<sup>12</sup> See document COP14 Doc.18.4 on *Draft resolution on review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands, additions for the period COP14-COP15 and key elements for the fifth Strategic Plan* at <https://www.ramsar.org/document/cop14-doc184-draft-resolution-on-review-of-the-fourth-strategic-plan-of-the-convention-on>.

new Global Biodiversity Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, and any future relevant work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) or the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), would be useful to help inform the new plan.

## Annex 1











### Trends over time of Key Indicators






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









(Adapted from IPBES)







Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Affirmative countries COP14	Progress since COP13
<b>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation</b>							
<b>Target 1-Wetland benefits are featured in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development infrastructure, industry, forestry, and aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level. {1.3.2} {1.3.3}.</b>	1.1 Have wetland issues/benefits been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.3.2} {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i						
	a) National Policy or strategy for wetland management				62%	65%	<span style="color: orange;">↗</span>
	b) Poverty eradication strategies	46%	36%	39%	30%	31%	<span style="color: blue;">→</span>
	c) Water resource management	46%	64%	70%	59%	66%	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>
	d) Coastal and marine resource management plans		59%	53%	43%	52%	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>
	e) Integrated Coastal Zone Management plans				35%	46%	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>
	f) National forest programme		54%	53%	51%	51%	<span style="color: blue;">→</span>





Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Affirmative countries COP14	Progress since COP13
	g) National policies on agriculture		41%	47%	48%	44%	
	h) National Biodiversity Strategy under the CBD		83%	85%	83%	84%	
	i) National policies on energy and mining				29%	31%	
	j) National policies on tourism				41%	43%	
	k) National policies on urban development				31%	39%	
	l) National policies on infrastructure				26%	36%	
	m) National policies on industry				24%	33%	
	n) National policies on aquaculture and fisheries				50%	59%	
	o) National plans for pollution control				46%	51%	
	p) National policies on wastewater management and water quality				49%	62%	






Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Affirmative countries COP14	Progress since COP13
<b>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.</b>	2.1 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed to support the implementation of the Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1, VIII.2)? 1.24	20%	N/A	N/A	17%	25%	
<b>Target 3-The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.</b>	3.2 - % of Parties reporting private sector undertaking activities for the conservation, wise use and management of wetlands						
	a) Ramsar Sites	N/A	50%	62%	46%	55%	
	b) Wetlands in general {1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii	N/A	50%	60%	41%	45%	
	3.3 - % of Parties reporting actions taken to implement incentive measures that encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands. {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i	41%	54%	50%	52%	54%	
	3.4 - % of Parties reporting actions taken to remove perverse incentive measures that discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands. {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i.	26%	35%	37%	37%	38%	












Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Affirmative countries COP14	Progress since COP13
<b>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.</b>	4.1 - % of Parties having a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands. {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i	N/A	28%	34%	40%	42%	
	4.2 - % of Parties that have established or reviewed national policies or guidelines on invasive wetland species control and management. {1.9.2} KRA 1.9.iii)	34%	22%	36%	26%	42%	
<b>Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network</b>							
<b>Target 5-The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.</b>	5.3 How many Ramsar Sites have an effective, implemented management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	25%	83%	86%	84%	88%	
	5.4.For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? (2.4.2)	25%	75%	76%	82%	84%	
	5.9.Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i	18%	22%	27%	23%	30%	
<b>Target 7-Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.</b>	7.2. % of Parties that have reported to the Secretariat all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i.	20%	18%	21%	21%	28%	






Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Affirmative countries COP14	Progress since COP13
<b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b>							
<b>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.</b>	8.1 Does your country have a complete National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	37%	54%	47%	44%	46%	
	8.5 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed during the last triennium? {1.1.3}						
	a) Ramsar Sites (Status deteriorated)	37%	17%	19%	18%	19%	
	b) wetlands generally (Status deteriorated)	36%	28%	41%	38%	40%	
<b>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.</b>	9.1 - % of Parties that have adopted wetland policies or equivalent instruments that promote the wise use of their wetlands. {1.3.1.} KRA 1.3.i	40%	51%	55%	52%	68%	
	9.3 Do your country's water governance and management systems treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {1.7.1} {1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii	N/A	65%	71%	63%	75%	
	9.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.3} {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii	N/A	28%	40%	42%	55%	

Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Affirmative countries COP14	Progress since COP13	
<b>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.</b>	10.1 Have the guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19) been used or applied?.(Action 6.1.2/ 6.1.6)	24%	28%	N/A	36%	45%		
	<b>Target 11-Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.</b>	11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii	13%	21%	19%	24%	32%	
		11.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i	28%	39%	42%	33%	32%	
11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii		43%	57%	61%	45%	53%		

Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Affirmative countries COP14	Progress since COP13
<b>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.</b>	12.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i	N/A	65%	70%	54%	60%	
	12.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been effectively implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i	66%	69%	70%	43%	53%	
<b>Goal 4: Enhancing implementation</b>							
<b>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.</b>	15.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i	61%	65%	68%	59%	66%	
<b>Target 16-Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.</b>	16.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i						
	a) At the national level	14%	18%	27%	24%	35%	
	16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	45%	54%	63%	49%	46%	

Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Affirmative countries COP14	Progress since COP13
	16.6 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:						
	a) Ramsar Site managers	N/A	56%	55%	53%	61%	
	b) other MEA national focal points	N/A	46%	44%	45%	49%	
	c) other ministries, departments and agencies. {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi	53%	54%	48%	45%	53%	
	16.7. Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP12? {4.1.8}	88%	90%	89%	87%	91%	
	16.8. Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP12 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}	53%	82%	84%	83%	87%	

Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Affirmative countries COP14	Progress since COP13
<b>Target 17-Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available</b>	17.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i	13%	20%	21%	19%	16%	
	17.3 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i	15%	17%	15%	11%	13%	
	17.5 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only. Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}]	31%	36%	40%	28%	29%	
<b>Target 18-International cooperation is strengthened at all levels</b>	18.1 - % of Parties where the national focal points of other MEAs are invited to participate in the National Ramsar / wetland committee {3.1.1} {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1 i.	38%	39%	45%	42%	41%	

Strategic Plan Goal / Target	Indicator	Affirmative countries at COP 10	Affirmative countries at COP11	Affirmative countries at COP12	Affirmative countries at COP13	Affirmative countries COP14	Progress since COP13
	18.2 - % of Parties where collaboration mechanisms exist between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Focal Point of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies. {3.1.2} {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv	N/A	43%	45%	42%	45%	
	18.3 - % of Parties that have received assistance from one or more UN and other global or regional bodies and agencies or the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention. {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.ii.	51%	44%	47%	40%	43%	
<b>Target 19-Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.</b>	19.1 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii	15%	13%	20%	17%	18%	
	19.3 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP12? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv						
	a) at Ramsar Sites		37%	43%	44%	40%	
	b) at other wetlands	40%	37%	31%	39%	34%	

## Annex 2

### General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

#### Most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention (A)

1. The most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention mentioned by Parties that submitted national reports to COP14 include:
  - designation and management of Ramsar Sites;
  - increasing the recognition of the value of wetlands;
  - mainstreaming of wetlands into development sectors, in particular the water and agriculture sectors;
  - preparation and validation of national wetlands policies or strategies;
  - communication and outreach, capacity building, education, participation and awareness campaigns on the conservation and wise use of wetlands;
  - new and improved policy and stronger legislation for protection of wetlands;
  - preparation of wetland inventories; and
  - wetlands restoration projects

#### Greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention (B)

2. The greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention that Parties indicated in the national reports to COP14 included a lack of consistent coordination, internally and with other agencies (environment, agriculture, irrigation, and tourism) in dealing with wetland-related matters.
3. Other difficulties mentioned are as follows:
  - a. The global pandemic caused by COVID-19 has reduced overall capacity and focus on wetlands conservation. The pandemic has delayed on-the-ground activities causing potential major disruptions in long-term data gathering, conservation and monitoring. Furthermore, shifts in economic priorities to address the pandemic have also caused delays or reduced funding.
  - b. Insufficient administrative capacity for implementation of the Convention; lack of staff and financial resources for continued and sustainable management planning and implementation in wetlands.
  - c. Where wetlands are not considered as a high priority, government investment is low, whether to implement programmes and key activities such as the preparation of management plans for Ramsar Sites and monitoring, or to sustain awareness campaign for wetlands protection, develop institutional and human capacities for wetland management or enforce wetland protection.
  - d. Weakness in the articulation and coordination of actions between the stakeholders linked to the management of wetlands.
  - e. Complex division of competences between different institutions results in slow and difficult decision-making processes.
  - f. EU directives and national legislation are given priority over international conventions.



- g. Poor political will and the poor visibility of the Convention is reflected in limited public awareness and limited understanding among different government agencies of the values and benefits of wetlands, and the value of Ramsar status.
- h. Conflicting laws and policies affect wetland conservation and wise use of their resources, and enforcement of the law by government institutions to deal with problems at wetlands including Ramsar Sites can be weak.
- i. Lack of an enabling wetlands policy and legal framework to regulate sustainable use of wetlands.
- j. Alteration and degradation of wetlands and Ramsar Sites by pollution, industrial effluent, and agricultural and domestic waste, by the reclamation of wetlands for farmland and urban development, and by the proliferation of alien invasive species. The opposition of key sectors, especially mining, energy and transport, to integration of wetlands into environmental management hinders effective actions for the wise use of wetlands.
- k. There are gaps in coordination with other Conventions, such as the CBD and UNFCCC, on wetland-related synergies, and in sharing of information on such areas.
- l. There is limited data to accurately assess the full extent of wetlands and a lack of ongoing monitoring programmes to track their status and trends and key aspects of the ecological goods and services that they provide, in order to guide decision making.
- m. Land ownership sometimes makes restoration planning and implementing difficult.
- n. There is limited technical capacity to conduct assessments on the ecological character of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, and to monitor their status, and also limited human capacity to implement the Convention.
- o. Management plans have failed to give guidance on the management of conservation areas, and particularly on addressing threats to the ecological character of the sites.
- p. The Ramsar Convention uses three languages for official communications, limiting implementation where other languages are used.

#### Priorities for the future implementation of the Convention (C)

4. The following are the priorities mentioned by Parties:
  - a. Ensure effective coordination of the implementation of the Convention nationally and integration of all relevant activities.
  - b. Improve effective management of protected areas including Wetlands of International Importance, and start or continue to develop wetland inventories, monitoring and assessment of wetland benefits to generate data, and information for informed planning, management, restoration and decision making.
  - c. Support continuous improvement of CEPA (communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness) to raise the awareness of the general public of wetlands and

water resources conservation, and strengthen capacity building of National Focal Points and policy makers.

- d. Improve national coordination and implementation of all environmental/biodiversity related Conventions, particularly the CBD and the World Heritage Convention.
- e. Complete the updating of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, taking into consideration CBD, Ramsar, CITES and CMS strategic plans that contribute to achieve Aichi and SDG targets.
- f. Reverse the trend of loss of threatened habitat types and species in wetlands by protecting, management, restoration and sustainable use.
- g. Reduce pollution, and promote integrated water resources management at the basin level.
- h. Conduct assessments of the ecosystem services and of the impacts of climate change on wetlands, and take adaptation and mitigation measures. Promote Ramsar within the context of management of natural infrastructure and resilience, and explore the role of wetlands in climate change mitigation (including blue carbon, freshwater wetlands), and how this may support the ongoing management, wise use and restoration of wetlands.
- i. Strengthen the regional cooperation on transboundary Ramsar Sites management and watersheds, and support international wetland protection by continuing to promote bilateral and multilateral research and cooperation.
- j. Mobilize resources for wetland management (restoration, protection and enhancement).
- k. Strengthen cooperation between the private sector, governments, NGOs and local community resource users.
- l. Mainstream the wise use of wetlands in national priorities and ensure that the aims of the Ramsar Convention are integrated and reflected in relevant national policies and development agendas, Natura 2000, EU Directives and biodiversity strategies.
- m. Improve the organization and function of Ramsar Regional Initiatives.
- n. Implement national wetland policy and strategic actions through cross-sectoral coordination, establishment of wetland and watershed inter-sectoral committees and implementation of legislative frameworks.

## Annex3

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

1. Three percent of Contracting Parties submitted their national targets to the Secretariat by the deadline of 20 January 2020. A brief overview of the findings of Section 4 *Optional annex on national targets* is presented below based on the inputs of the 38% of Parties that filled in this section by the submission of their full national reports to COP14.
2. Of the four Goals of the Ramsar Strategic Plan, Goals 1 to 3 were the most prioritized for COP14, as was the case for COP13. Of the 13 Targets within Goals 1 to 3 of the Strategic Plan, those most prioritized were as follows:
  - Target 5 “The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management” was the highest priority of 23% of responding Parties.
  - Target 1 “Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level”, Target 8 “National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands”, 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” and Target 18 “International cooperation is strengthened at all levels” were selected with a highest priority by 22% of the Parties.
3. Some of the main outcomes for Target 5 mentioned by Parties are:
  - ecological character of wetlands assessed;
  - restoration of degraded sites including mangrove sites, promotion of community awareness and participation in restoration practices;
  - preparation and implementation of management plans;
  - technical assistance to Site managers;
  - assessment of management effectiveness of Ramsar Sites;
  - development of strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands;
  - establish a cross-sectoral National Ramsar Committee, to help enhance the management of sites;
  - establish new protected areas important for biodiversity that are not represented within the existing protected area or that are at significant risk of irreversible loss or decline;
  - contributions to Implementation of National Aichi Targets 6, 11, 12 and 14 including all wetlands; and
  - development of rapid ecological assessment and monitoring of biodiversity.
4. In terms of the resources available, 17% of Parties mentioned resourcing as “limiting” for Targets 1, 5, 13 and 19. For Targets 2 and 8 only 7% of Parties indicated good resources available. The identification of the resources available may support Contracting Parties to seek additional funding for implementation through the appropriate financial mechanisms. However, as noted previously in the section on main achievements since COP13, for Target 17, non-core financial contributions for the implementation of the Convention are declining, and therefore countries will need to make more efforts and put mechanisms in place to implement their national Strategic Plan priorities which contribute to the global environmental agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Annex 4

### How the Ramsar Strategic Plan supports the SDGs and Aichi Targets

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

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024		Sustainable Development Goals: related SDG targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020	
<b>Target 4</b>	Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.	15.8	<b>Aichi Target 9</b>	By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
<b>Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network</b>			<b>Aichi Target 11</b>	By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
<b>Target 5</b>	The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management	6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4	<b>Aichi Target 11</b>	By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
			<b>Aichi Target 12</b>	By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
			<b>Aichi Target 6</b>	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
<b>Target 6</b>	There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network in particular underrepresented types of wetlands including in underrepresented ecoregions and transboundary sites	6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4	<b>Aichi Target 11</b>	same as above
			<b>Aichi Target 10</b>	By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.
<b>Target 7</b>	Sites that are at risk of change of ecological	6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b;	<b>Aichi Target 12</b>	Same as above

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024		Sustainable Development Goals: related SDG targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020	
	character have threats addressed.	12.4; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4	<b>Aichi Target 5</b>	By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
			<b>Aichi Target 7</b>	same as above
			<b>Aichi Target 11</b>	same as above
<b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b>				
<b>Target 8</b>	National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.	6.6; 11.4; 14.5; 15.1	<b>Aichi Target 14</b>	same as above
			<b>Aichi Target 18</b>	By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
			<b>Aichi Target 19</b>	By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
			<b>Aichi Target 12</b>	same as above
<b>Target 9</b>	The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i> , within a river basin or along a coastal zone.	1.4; 5.a; 6.5; 8.4; 11.b; 14.7; 14.c	<b>Aichi Target 4</b>	same as above
			<b>Aichi Target 6</b>	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
			<b>Aichi Target 7</b>	same as above

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024		Sustainable Development Goals: related SDG targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020	
<b>Target 10</b>	The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.	2.3; 2.5; 5.5; 5.a; 6.b; 12.8; 15.c	<b>Aichi Target 18</b>	By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
<b>Target 11</b>	Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.	1.5; 14.7; 15.9	<b>Aichi Target 13</b>	By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.
			<b>Aichi Target 1</b>	By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps taken to conserve and use it sustainably.
			<b>Aichi Target 2</b>	same as above
			<b>Aichi Target 14</b>	By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
<b>Target 12</b>	Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation	6.6; 14.2; 14.4; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3	<b>Aichi Target 15</b>	By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
			<b>Aichi Target 14</b>	same as above
<b>Target 13</b>	Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, agriculture and ecotourism practices when	1.b; 2.4; 6.5; 8.3; 8.9; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 12b; 13.2; 14.4; 14.5; 14.c; 15.9	<b>Aichi Target 6</b>	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024		Sustainable Development Goals: related SDG targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020	
	they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods		<b>Aichi Target 7</b>	By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
<b>Operational Goal</b>				
<b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b>				
<b>Target 14</b>	Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language	<b>9.5; 9.a; 14.3; 14.4; 14.5; 17.6</b>	<b>Aichi Target 19</b>	same as above
<b>Target 15</b>	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.	<b>1.b; 2.5; 6.5; 6.6; 9.1; 11.a; 14.2; 15.1; 17.6; 17.7; 17.9</b>		
<b>Target 16</b>	Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.	<b>2.4; 4.7; 4.a; 6.a; 11.3; 13.1; 13.3; 15.7; 17.9</b>	<b>Aichi Target 1</b>	same as above
			<b>Aichi Target 18</b>	same as above
<b>Target 17</b>	Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available	<b>9.a; 10.6; 15.a; 15.b; 17.3</b>	<b>Aichi Target 20</b>	By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.
<b>Target 18</b>	International cooperation is strengthened at all levels	<b>1.b; 2.5; 6.5; 6.6; 6.a; 10.6; 12.4; 14.5; 14.c; 15.1; 15.6; 16.8; 17.6; 17.7; 17.9</b>		
<b>Target 19</b>	Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.	<b>2.4; 6.a; 11.3; 13.1; 13.3; 15.c; 17.9</b>	<b>Aichi Target 17</b>	By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
			<b>Aichi Target 1</b>	same as above