RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

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Section 1: Institutional Information

Important note: The responses below will be considered by the Convention on Wetlands Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points. All individuals listed below agree that the submitted information will be used to update the information in the Secretariat's contact database and will be published on the public website here Contacts on website.

Name of Contracting Party

The completed National Report **must be accompanied by a letter** in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP15 National Report. It can be attached to this question using the "Manage documents" function (blue symbol below)
Link to sample National Report Submission Letter: https://www.ramsar.org/document/national-reports-cop15-sample-letter
››› Sweden

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

RNR_to_COP_15_-_Sweden_accompanying_letter.pdf - Report confirmation paper sweden

Designated Administrative Authority for the Convention on Wetlands

Name of Administrative Authority
››› Naturvårdsverket (Swedish EPA)

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title
››› Claes Svedlindh, Director for the Nature Department

Mailing address
››› Naturvårdsverket, S-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden

Telephone
››› +46 10 698 14 99

Email
››› claes.svedlindh@naturvardsverket.se

Designated National Focal Point for the Convention on Wetlands

Name and title
››› Jenny Lonnstad, Wetland Advisor

Mailing address
››› Naturvårdsverket, S-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden

Telephone
››› +46 10 698 15 92

Email
››› jenny.lonnstad@naturvardsverket.se

Designated Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) National Focal Point

Name and title
››› Urban Gunnarsson, Wetland Habitat Advisor

Name of organisation
››› Artdatabanken, The Swedish Species Information Centre

Mailing address
››› Box 7007, S-750 07 Uppsala, Sweden

Telephone
››› +46 18 67 22 41

Email
››› urban.gunnarsson@slu.se

Designated Government Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)Programme National Focal Point

Name and title
››› Jenny Lonnstad, Wetland Advisor

Name of organisation
››› Naturvårdsverket (Swedish EPA)

Mailing address
››› Naturvårdsverket
106 48 Stockholm
Sweden

Telephone
››› +46 10 698 15 92

Email
››› jenny.lonnstad@naturvardsverket.se

Designated Non-Governmental Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Programme National Focal Point

Name and title
››› Sofia Holmgren, Wetlands expert

Name of organisation
››› Världsnaturfonden WWF Sweden

Mailing address
››› Ulriksdals Slott, S-170 81 Solna, Sweden

Telephone
››› +46 8 546 5713

Email
››› sofia.holmgren@wwf.se

Designated National Focal Point on Strengthening the Convention on Wetland’s Connections through Youth

Name and title
››› Regan McEnroe, spokesperson sea and water

Name of organization
››› Fältbiologerna

Mailing address
››› Åsögatan 115, 116 24 Stockholm

Phone
››› None

Email
››› regan.mcenroe@faltbiologerna.se

Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP14 reporting)

A. What have been the five main achievements of the implementation of the Convention since COP14?

1)
››› Restoration measures: During 2021-2024 there has been many restoration projects. Peatlands and other inland wetland types have been restored, mostly by rewetting. Approximately 2000 hectares per year have been restored. There has been a program to restore vegetation in shallow marine coastal waters by planting Zostera marina. Water courses are for example restored by removal of barriers and re-arranging rivers beds formerly used for timber floating. Major LIFE-IP projects have been approved, within the EU's LIFE Programme on improving the aquatic environment, focusing on aquatic environments. One of the largest aquatic restoration projects in Europe, Improve Aquatic Life, started in September 2024.

2)
››› Education measures: There has been a lot of e webbinars etc with the focus on wetland restoration and wetland ecosystem services.

3)
››› Invasive species: A number of project eliminating or reducing the population sizes of invasive wetland species have been conducted since the last report.

4)
››› Wetland inventory: Since the last report the work on digitalising the Swedish Wetland Inventory have continued. All the old analog schetces from the aerial interpretation (about 30 000 wetlands) have been digitalised, geocorrected and published as raster files. Work has started to make vector shape files based upon thoose raster files. Until now only few parts of the country has such vector files. The work will continue.

5)
››› Research: There has been a research program, with 8 different projects on wetland hydrology and ecosystem ecosystem services. The project was finalised in 2024. The results will be used in the restoration programme. Especially interesting was the fact that acid soils in areas close to the coast were more common than earlier expected. This is bad news, it makes restoration measures more difficult, having to prevent the leakage of different metals, mostly iron, when rewetting. This knowledge increases the possibility to plan and implement restoration in a good way without "negative" surprises that may have a bad impact on water quality.

B. What have been the five main challenges in implementing the Convention since COP14?

1)
››› Budget cuttings: The present situation for conservation of wetlands is to some extent more difficult than during the last triennium. There have been large budget cuttings for a lot of activitites regarding biodiversity. The restoration budget for wetlands has not been severly affected and is now increasing, but other budget accounts have had larger cuttings affecting the pace on improvments for management of wetlands. The most severe is the decrease of funds available for grazing and mowing used for example for rich fens, shore meadows and some peatlands, both in protected areas and elsewhere.
It's been a minor cut for establishment of new nature reserves and the work on invasive species. Protecting and restoring wetlands is time-consuming and dependent on long-term work. During the last years the national resources for the establishment of nature reserves have been mainly used to protect forests and not primary wetland areas.

2)
››› Wise use: Achieving wise use, (sustainable use of wetlands and their ecosystem services) and favourable conservation status, is an on-going challenge. This include diffuse environmental influence on aquatic environments, impact that cannot be solved with protected areas, for example water quality. The governmental environmental agencies do not have staff enough to be involved in all cases they would like. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management estimate that they only have staff enough to be involved in approximately 10% of the court cases or similar concering aquatic habitats.

3)
››› Climate change: Impact from climate change is a problem for most of the wetland types. In many parts of the country different wetland types are under stress, due to changes in precipitation, temperature and water

levels both in time and space. Palsa mires in the north continue to thaw. Glaciers and permanent snow fields continue to loose volyme, something that may have an impact on wetlands downstreams when they have disapperad. As a results of many drivers, the total area of open peatlands is decreasing due to afforestation, but in parts of the country where climate change makes conditions drier the climate change is also an important driver. Climate change may also turn peatlands that are carbon sinks to become carbon sources, especially in the north and if temperatures during late summer increse. Also some activities for climate adaptation, for example the decision on the building of dykes against raised sea levels or otherwise “protecting” the shores have a bad impact on wetlands affected.

4)
››› Water flows: Different kinds of difficulties with water flows in watercources. There are examples where water flows and water levels aren’t in line with existing conditions in permits, even in some protected areas. Existing permits also need to be improved from a biodiversity point of view, and also considering climate change/adaptation. The lack of natural water flows affects both the water courses and the surrounded area that under natural conditions should be flooded regularly. There were measures taken for updating the permits in different courtcases, but those measures were stopped by the Government and no progress have been made lately. As hydropower plays a massive role in the Swedish power sector, there is an ongoing debate regarding what consequences the measures that need to be taken, in order for the permits to be considered modern, will have on the electrical system. This is the main reason for why the schedule for this work has been postponed multiple times, from February 2023, to as for today, the work will not continue before July 2025. Now the government is suggesting changes in the legislation lowering the requirements for environmental permits. It is also a challenge that the legislation about draining and changing water flows is very difficult, sometimes making it difficult to do restoration measures.

5)
››› Lack of knowledge and data: Most nature reserves include freshwater habitats, there are however, needs to investigate the reserves further for aquatic values and subsequently strengthen regulations. Better knowledge of the marine areas is required, even if progess have been made. When working with the digitalisation of the National Wetland Inventory it was discovered that data hade been migrated badly and that a lot of data had been lost. It is a huge task to get the wetland data in order again.

C. Please outline five priorities for implementing the Convention in your country during the coming triennium (2026-2028)

1)
››› Wise use: Better consideration for the wetlands, rivers, lakes and coastal areas in conjunction with the use of land adjacent to wetlands. Two main threats are intensive forest management and existing ditches and the cleaning of them in the management of arable land and forests. The most important driving forces for such activitites are increased demand for wood/biomass and the risk that crops will be damaged by flooding. There is also a big need to make new and modern permits that include environmental conditions for a number of hydroelectrical power plants (dams etc) and other kinds of dams built in water courses before there was any environmental legislation. New permits may include measures that reduce the environmental impact of hydropower without hazarding the production of energy needed to meet future energy demands. Continued work to eliminate obstacles in order to let fish and other aquatic organisms migrate freely along the water courses is needed.

2)
››› Restoration: Continue to restore wetlands and increase the affected area of restoration per year. The Swedish government has allocated funds specifically for the conservation and restoration of aquatic environments during the period of 2024-2026. There is also an ongoing permanent programme for restoring the “terrestrial” wetlands. Implementation of the newly adopted EU Nature Restoration Law.

3)
››› Climate change: Get better knowledge on how to cope with a changed climate and the effect it will have on the distribution of water in the landscape and increased overgrowth with bushes and trees in wetlands.

4)
››› Protected areas: The need to increase the area of protected wetlands and aquatic habitats. There are high ambitions in global objectives to increase the total area of the protected sites. Sweden will continue its work with protecting wetlands trying to reach the objectives. A major priority is to further integrate conservation of terrestrial and aquatic environments. Connectivity studies would help investigating whether the protected areas are optimally placed. Long-term monitoring systems would be useful to analyse whether more conservation measures are needed to secure the protection of the species and habitats intended to be protected.

5)

››› Invasive species: Continuing to eliminate or reduce populations of invasive alien species.

D. Does the Administrative Authority have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention Secretariat?
››› The best way for the Secretariat to assist Sweden in its implementation is to provide information from research about ecosystem services and their values (especially the hydrological ones on for example flood regulations), interesting development on restoration techniques and other methods needed for different measures. Spreading other kinds of results from interesting wetlands projects that may inspire Contracting Parties and others are also helpful. It's important that the Ramsar Secretariat continue to take an active part in for example the UNFCCC and IBPES. Some measures suggested for climate adaptation are good for wetlands and others are not, and it is recommended that the Ramsar Secretariat take part in the discussions and negotiations. Resolutions about how to cope with opposing interests are recommended in both conventions and in the CBD as well.

E. Does the Administrative Authority have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention’s International Organization Partners (IOPs) (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to be developed)?
››› Continue to provide information about wetlands and do restoration/preservation projects that serve as good examples. Update the population data on water birds.

F. In accordance with paragraph 21 of Resolution XIII.18 on Gender and wetlands, please provide a short description about the balance between genders participating in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research.
››› There is no official national analyse on gender balance for people working with wetland issues. So, we have chosen to do some minor studies for the gender balance in certain wetland issues where we at least have some recordings of gender. There has also been an attempt to find if there are any recent reports on gender balance or some activities made for increasing gender balance. It does not give the full picture but gives us a hint on how the present situation looks like.
The wetland team at the Swedish EPA - During 2021-2024 there was a total dominance of women working with wetland restoration tasks (full or part time) at the Swedish EPA. Among the ones in the staff who worked in the project on wetland restoration there was one man and six women.
Regional wetland restoration staff - In 2024 the send list for regional wetland restoration staff contained quite a good gender balance, 47% men and 53% women.
The Swedish delegation at COP14 – The delegation consisted of one man and one woman.
The sectors that have a lot of impact on wetlands; agriculture, forestry and fishing still have an unbalance concerning gender. This is both the number of people working in these sectors, but also the amount of influence they have. A significant majority of the owners, representatives in boards and the ones being CEOs are men. The Board of Agriculture recently presented this report on the imbalance;
https://www2.jordbruksverket.se/download/18.248e13d0175bd920a1b3543e/1605258076288/ovr570.pdf

G. On the basis of your indications above, list possible areas where change is necessary for the achievement of gender equality.
››› There are a lot to do when it comes to a more equal gender balance about the influnence on decitions made in the agriculture, forestry and fishing. For example, there are reports on the difficulty to keep women in the research sector. Research must be more financially secure, so it is easier to combine research with having a large responsibility for the running a family. Domestic life (household work) needs to be better shared between men and women, so that women’s research careers aren’t halted by having a family.

H. Please describe lessons learnt in the context of wetlands and gender equality work in your country.
››› In 2023 there was an investigation on how the forestry sector could achieve a better gender balance. The final report included 17 suggestions om how to make improvements,
https://www.skogsstyrelsen.se/globalassets/om-oss/rapporter/rapporter-2023/rapport-2023-07-17-vagar-till-en-mer-jamstalld-skogssektor.pdf They have also decided on objectives on how the gender balance should be better.

I. If possible, please list gender-related policies, strategies and action plans in place relevant to wetlands in your country.
››› There is the general legislation about gender equity, which also is applicable for wetland issues. The legislation claims that men and women are to have the same conditions in the Swedish society and that they have the same right to work and develop.

J. If applicable, identify examples of strategies and actions your country is implementing to support youth participation in the implementation of the Convention’s Strategic Plan or in wetlands management (Resolution XIV.12 on Strengthening Ramsar connections through youth, paragraph 21).
››› Sweden has not been able to proiritise this issue.

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

››› The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, the Swedish Forest Agency, the Swedish Board of Agriculture, the Ministry of Climate and Business, The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, The Species Information Centre at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, WWF Sweden and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation including its section for youths.

Section 3 - all goals: Indicator questions and further implementation information

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.

Section 3 - Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.
[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15]

Target 1

Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14]

1.1 Have any actions been taken since COP14 to integrate wetland protection, wise use and restoration, or wetland benefits, into other national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.1}
Please select only one per square.

a) National policy or strategy for wetland management	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
b) Poverty eradication strategies	☑ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
e) Integrated coastal zone management plan	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
f) National forest management plan/strategies	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
g) National policies or measures on agriculture	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes

h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
i) National policies on energy and mining	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
j) National policies on tourism	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
k) National policies on urban development	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
l) National policies on infrastructure	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
m) National policies on industry	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
n) National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3}	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
o) National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
p) National policies on wastewater management and water quality	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
q) National policies, strategies or plans on sanitation	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
r) National policies, strategies or plans on food security	☐ Y=Not Relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes

1.1 Additional information

››› All sectors that have a large impact on wetlands need to follow Environmental Code and other legislation and in many cases need to have permits for what they do.
In Sweden, the Environmental Quality Objectives (EQO) apply to all sectors of society and set the framework

for conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. Most important for wetlands are the objectives for limnic water, coastal marine water and “terrestrial” wetlands. These objectives include for example conservation, restoration, sustainable use and ecosystem services. The aims of the Ramsar Convention are satisfyingly implemented in the EQOs.
Every four years, an in-depth evaluation is made of the progress towards achieving the environmental quality objectives, and the results are presented to the Government and Parliament as a basis for Sweden’s environmental policy in the years to come. There was an in-depth evaluation of the objectives reported in 2023. The evaluation covered state for wetlands, how the society copes with the environmental issues and the conditions and possibilities to reach the objectives. The results show that there is still a lot to do to reach the objectives. https://www.naturvardsverket.se/publikationer/7000/978-91-620-7091-5/

Target 2

Water userespects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 7, Sustainable Development Goal 6, Indicator 6.3.1]

2.1 Have the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands and the additional guidance on tools and methodologies been brought to the attention of national ministries and/or agencies at different levels of territorial organizations (Resolutions VIII.1, VIII.2)? {2.1}
☑ C=Partially

2.1 Additional Information
››› They were brought to their attention when they were new, but not recently. The framework of the relevant EU directives, especially the EU Water Framework Directive is important for the Swedish work on water quality and quantity. How climate change will change the availability of water for wetlands is also on the agenda for agencies working with wetlands.

2.2 Have assessments of environmental flow been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands? {2.2}
☑ A=Yes

2.2 Additional Information

››› When a permit for something that affects water is applied for, the responsible authority/court must consider if a permit should be given or not concerning the quantity and quality of water. Also considering what mitigation that can be done if a permit is granted. Unfortunately, we also have a number of older permits that was given without such care.

2.3 Have the designation or management of Wetlands of International Importance (“Ramsar Sites”) improved the sustainable use of water (e.g. reduced drainage, reduced use of pesticides, controlled pollution etc.) in your country?

☑ C=Partially

2.3 Additional Information
››› The Ramsar sites themselves have little influence, but the Ramsar Convention and the interest in wetlands and waters in general have. For example, there is a general prohibition for new drainage of wetlands in large parts of southern Sweden. In the rest of the country the landowner needs to apply for a permit from the County Administration Board.

2.4 Have the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12) been used/applied in decision-making processes? {2.3}

☑ C=Partially

2.4 Additional Information
››› No, but the EU Frame Water Directive has, and it includes a lot that is also mentioned in these resolutions.

2.5 Have projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands been developed {2.4}
☑ A=Yes

2.5 Additional Information
››› No, but the EU Frame Water Directive has, and it includes a lot that is also mentioned in these resolutions.

2.6 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? {2.8}
☑ C=Partially

2.6 Additional Information
››› The number of OSWTS:s that use constructed wetlands or ponds as the main treatment are close to zero. In some cases, it can be used as a precautionary step after the main treatment. A small number of urban wastewater treatment plants use constructed wetlands/ponds, primarily to reduce nitrogen or as a precautionary treatment step after the main treatment. The wetlands are sometimes regarded as a formal part of the treatment plant, thus included in the discharge permit, and sometimes as an informal, supplementary measure prior to discharge in the main recipient.

Target 3

Public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 7, 10, 15, 16 and 18]

3.1 Has your country put in place policies, including incentives, guidelines or other instruments to encourage the private sector to apply the wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in activities and investments related to wetlands? {3.1}
☑ A=Yes

3.1 Additional Information

Please specify if it was applied for policy formulation or in implementation of good practice.
››› There are a number of funds that the public and private sectors can use for wetland restoration. The Environmental Code and other legislation relevant for each sector must be followed. The Swedish Forest Agency and the Swedish Board for Agriculture and the different County Administrative Boards give advice and inform landowners about how they can take care and use their land not to have so large impact on wetlands.

3.2 Has the private sector undertaken any activities or actions for the conservation, wise use, and management of (a) Ramsar Sites or (b) wetlands in general? {3.2}
Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Sites	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) Wetlands in general	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

3.2 Additional information
››› a, The private sector is often involved in the management measures that carry on grazing and mowing at the sites that require such management. This is often done with support of public funds. Otherwise, the private sector is not so involved in managing the Ramsar sites, the sites are often protected as nature reserves, Natura 2000 or similar.
b, All sectors of society are obliged to take environmental consideration in accordance with the Environmental Code. This is particularly relevant within forestry, as regulated by the Forestry Act. Landowners, especially farmers are relatively active in restoring wetlands. The private sector is also sometimes locally involved in different wetland projects. Often with support of public funds.

3.3 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {3.3}
☑ A=Yes

3.3 Additional information

Please specify the types of incentive measures (loans, tax breaks, or others).
››› There are many possibilities to get financial support from different programmes for restoring wetlands. The restoration programmes have arranged webinars on restoration of wetlands. The Swedish Rural Development Programme provides support for grazing and mowing which is necessary for some wetlands. The protected area of mires and forests in the National Mire Protection Plan has been increased with about 13 000 hectares

during 2021-2023.

3.4 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which lead to degradation or loss of wetlands? {3.4}
☑ B=No

3.4 Additional Information

Please specify the actions that have been taken to remove perverse incentive measures (e.g. removal of subsidies for agricultural expansion) and provide the source links or upload the source documents here.
››› None,

Target 4

Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6]

4.1 Does your country have a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {4.1}
☑ C=Partially

4.1 Additional information
››› For a few invasive wetland species there have been regular inventories. For a few species, there is quite a good knowledge of where they occur. Many observations are received by citizens reporting in national on-line system for species observation, https://artfakta.se/rapportera/invasiva-arter/skapa. But there are not any inventories covering the whole country in a structured way.

4.2 Has your country adopted any national policies, strategies, or guidelines on invasive species control and management that are relevant for wetlands? {4.2}
☑ C=En partie

4.2 Additional information
››› The EQO for wetlands and aquatic habitats include clarifications on alien species and genotypes as well as GMO, having the objective that invasive species are not to interfere with habitats conservation status. There is EU legislation on invasive alien species that is applied in Sweden, all wetland species on the EU-list are covered by this legislation. There is an action plan on how to cut the ways the species listed by the EU legislation spread. The Environmental Code contains provisions concerning the release of alien species, in line with Sweden’s commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
There is information about invasive alien species (description of the legislation and facts about a number of species including guidelines about how to fight them) at http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Amnen/Invasiva-frammande-arter/.

4.3. Has your country successfully controlled through management actions invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems? {4.3}
☑ F=Fewer than #

››› 20

4.3 Additional Information
››› Since the last COP there have been some measures to limit a number of invasive species, some measures are more successful than others. But during 2023 there were no governmental supported projects implemented due to governmental funds cut to zero. In 2024 the work started again.
Another example is measures against American skunk-cabbage Lysichiton americanus https://www.skogsstyrelsen.se/om-oss/var-verksamhet/projekt/grip-on-life/nyheter/vi-bekampar-skunkkalla-i-halland/
Some vertebrate species are hunted (with traps or shot) when reported to occur in an area.
Yearly reports on results for the invasive Racoon Dog (summary in English): https://jagareforbundet.se/vilt/invasiva-frammande-arter/arsrapporter-och-informationsmaterial/

4.4 Has the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?{4.5}
☑ B=No

4.4 Additional Information
››› During 2023 there was a total cut of funds and staff working with IAS were transferred to other work task. During 2024 the work was restarted after re-introducing funds in the budget. There has not been time and

resources to do any assessments.

Section 3 - Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.
[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 6, 11, 13, 14, 15]

Target 5

The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective planning and integrated management
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 3 and 5]

5.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? {5.1}
☑ B=No

5.1 Additional information
››› Altogether, Sweden has 68 Ramsar sites. There are no plans nor any strategies for designating more Ramsar sites in the nextcoming years. But we have a list of possible sites for some counties. Other kinds of work adressing wetlands, for example restoration, is a much higher prioritised right now.

5.2 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {5.3}
☑ E=# Sites

››› 66

5.3 How many of the Ramsar Sites are actively implementing their management plan? {5.4}
☑ E=# Sites

››› 66

5.4 How many Ramsar Sites are implementing management actions outside of formal management plans? {5.5}
☑ E=# Sites

››› 0

5.2 – 5.4 Additional information
››› All Swedish Ramsar sites are either completely or partly designated Natura 2000 sites. Most of the sites are completely or partly protected as NR (nature reserves) or NP (national parks). One single Ramsar site can contain a number of NRs. Regulations for the NPs and NRs are included in the decision when establishing them. According to Swedish legislation, a management plan is required for NRs and NPs and a conservation plan is required for Natura 2000 sites. Altogether, there are about 350 management/conservation plans for the 68 existing Ramsar sites. There is no compilation containing information about which of the management plans or conservation plans that are under revision for the time being and how large parts of the sites that is not part of a protected area.
The sites Mannavuoma, Sikåsvågarna and Hovranområdet lack management/conservation plan or only have it for a small part of the site. There are plans to establish the site Sikåsvågarna as a natureresrve. There are no plans to make management plans for the unprotected parts within anyof the Ramsar sites. For the time being it's considered that the general legislation will be sufficient to maintain the ecological status in those parts.

5.5 Have all Ramsar Sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (through formal management plans where they exist or otherwise through existing actions for appropriate wetland management)? {5.6}

If “yes”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites
If “partially”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites
If “planned”, please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites
☑ C=Partially

››› Unknown

5.5 Additional information

Please provide the source links or upload the source documents here indicating the assessment tool used (e.g. Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), Resolution XII.15), and the source of the information.
››› Most of the management plans and conservation plans related to protected areas at the Ramsar site are

based upon sound scientific research, including research on potential threats in general, and partly at site level. There is a system to follow up management of protected areas (but not all, selected parts only).

5.6 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {5.7}
☑ E=# Sites

››› 0

5.6 Additional information
››› The County Administrative Boards have the main responsibility for the management of protected areas. When updating regulations, borders and management all stakeholders are invited in the process. Many locals participate by arrenging grazing and mowing. For some Ramsar sites, management responsibility is delegated from the County Administrative Board to e.g. foundations established to convene different stakeholders. Community involvement has high priority in nature conservation in Sweden, and efforts are being made to increase the participation of different stakeholders in the management of protected areas. But formal committees are not established even if there are locals involved in most of the sites management.

5.7 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared (see Resolution X.15)?
☑ E=# Sites

››› 68

5.7 Additional information

For example give the name and official number of the Site or Sites.
››› All Ramsar sites have an ecological description included in the RIS for the site.

5.8 Resolution VI.13 urges Parties to give priority to providing the Secretariat with maps and completed Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) for all Sites designated for the Ramsar List, and to revise this data at least every six years. If your country has not updated its RIS as required, describe the challenges in updating RIS, particularly descriptions of ecological character.
››› All Swedish Ramsar sites have a proper map and a RIS including an ecological description. But many of the RIS are older than 6 years and should be be updated.
The staff that can do updates have to prioritise more important wetland tasks. The old RISs are still valid when it comes to most of the their content. By the time of COP15, all sites will have an RIS that is older than 6 years.

Target 7
Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed {2.6.}.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 3, 4 and 10]

7.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {7.1}
☑ A=Yes

7.1 Additional information

If “Yes”, please provide the source links or upload the source documents here describing the mechanisms established
››› All Swedish Ramsar sites are either completely or partly protected as nature reserves and/or Natura 2000 sites. Management plans for nature reserves and Natura 2000 sites shall include monitoring measures, in respect of follow-up of identified conservation status targets.
If accidents or other unexpected impacts happen, the County Administrative Boards should contact the Swedish EPA (the AA).

7.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {7.2}
☑ B=No

7.2 Additional information

If “Yes” or “Some cases”, please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has **not** made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat
››› Information has been reported in the RIS for each affected site. Sweden cannot prioritise to do the updating of the RIS, so all RIS will be older than 6 years by the time for COP15. The content in the old ones will still be relevant, except for the following;
• Pukaviksbukten-Mörrumsån have had a seroius impact of oil spill in the shore areas.
• Faltsterbo-Höllviken will be affected by the building of dykes around the shore meadows. The dykes will be

built as a consequence of climate change and raised sea levels.
• Tysjöarna need to correct the water levels in the lakes after a raise of the water level that was to high for the surroundning wetlands, for example the rich fens.

Section 3 - Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.
[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

Target 8
National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 21]

8.1 Does your country have a National Wetland Inventory (NWI)? {8.1}
☑ A=Yes

8.1 Additional information

For example, if “in progress” or “planned”, by when will it be completed?
››› There are a number of surveys, inventories and monitoring programmes about wetlands.
The Swedish wetland inventory (not including all aquatic habitats) was initiated in 1981 and completed in 2004. It covers the whole country except the alpine zone. Individual County Administration Boards with support from the Swedish EPA have conducted the inventory. Approximately 36 000 wetlands, generally larger than 10 hectares (50 hectares in the northernmost part of the country), have been studied on aerial photographs and about 12 % of the objects have been visited in the field. The objectives for the inventory included mapping the distribution of wetlands throughout the county, as well as studying their environmental assets and the extent to which they have been affected by human activities. The wetlands that were visited in the field had data about vegetation type and species added. In 2014 a compilation of the final results was published in English, it is available for downloading at Våtmarks¬-inventeringen – resultat från 25 års inventeringar (naturvardsverket.se)
Furthermore, complementary inventories of alkaline fens (rich fens) have been done in the framework of an action programme for rich fens and associated threatened species which was established by the Swedish EPA. The state and trends of alkaline fens with respect to the impact of human activities on hydrology and biodiversity monitored in the Swedish national environmental monitoring programme.
The project 'Base survey of Natura 2000 and protected areas' lasted from 2004 to 2008. The aim was to collect information about habitats, structures, functions and species within Sweden’s Natura 2000 areas and protected areas. For wetland habitats, this inventory was based on the national wetlands survey and partly uses the same methodology. It gave updated information for some of the areas with high conservation values, as well as additional information about mountainous wetlands and some of the smaller habitat types, such as springs and rich fens.
Results from a detailed survey about palsa mires were published in 2014 and are available at https://www.naturvardsverket.se/publikationer/7100/978-91-620-7113-4/ an update will soon be finalised.
Recently the Swedish landcover data have been further developed to better distinguish between different kind of “terrestrial” wetlands, (for example peatlands).
The Swedish Forestry Agency have made an inventory of inundated forest, https://www.skogsstyrelsen.se/globalassets/projektwebbplatser/grip-on-life-ip/rapporter-grip-on-life/2021.04-arbetssatt-for-systematisk-naturvard.pdf The report included possible activities to improve their ecological status.
Both marine and inland waters lack a comprehensive national inventory. The database Valuable water is a compilation of valuable freshwater environments based natural, fish, fishing and cultural values, http://www.viss.lansstyrelsen.se/.

8.2 If your country has an NWI, has it been updated in the last decade [2014-2024]? {8.2}
☑ B=No

8.2 Additional information
››› There is still on-going work making quality controls on the NWI data. Right now we are focused on getting the old data in order and make it digitally available. Updates cannot be done until the base-line is correct.

8.3 How often is the NWI updated?
☑ C=Not updated

8.3 Additional information
››› Right now, the NWI is not updatead at all.

Data from the survey of alkaline fens (rich fens) is available at the county administrative boards concerned. The data will be maintained in the national environmental monitoring programme in the years to come, by monitoring the state and trends of hydrology and biodiversity.
Data from the satellite based monitoring programme for open mires is available on the internet. The plan is to update it about every ten years.

8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information publicly available? {8.4}
☑ C=Partially

8.4 Additional information

For example if “partially” or “planned” by when will the data/information be made public?
››› Information from the inventory has been communicated to and used by a wide range of stakeholders. There is an on-going project to make all reports from the survey more easily available in a digitalised format. The reports and some unpublished manuscripts are now digitalised but they still have to be made available on the internet. The published information is available at https://geodata.naturvardsverket.se/nedladdning/VMI/
The information in the database ”Valuable water” is accessible to all stakeholders (https://www.havochvatten.se/hav/samordning--fakta/kartor--gis/karttjanster-fran-hav/karttjanster/vardefulla-vatten.html.
A lot of geodata about wetlands are available at www.geodata.se

8.5 Please explain how the NWI data/information is maintained if at all? {8.3}
››› There is on-going work on digitalising the remote sensing interpretation maps from the inventory, the work making raster files will be finalised during 2024. The step after that is to create new better vector GIS-files. There is also ongoing work getting the database for the wetland data in order.

8.6 Based on the information in NWI, if available, please provide the total area in square kilometres (km2) for the extent of wetlands (according to the Convention on Wetland’s definition) for the year of available data and provide the relevant disaggregated information in the box below. This information will also be used to report on SDG 6, Target 6.6, Indicator 6.6.1, for which the Convention is a co-custodian. {8.6}
☑ X=Unknown

8.6 According to the Convention’s definition and classification of wetlands, the disaggregated information on wetland extent is as follows

Note: The minimum information that should be provided is the total area of wetlands for each of the three major categories; “marine/coastal”, “inland” and “human-made”.
If the data on inventories are partial or not complete, use the available information to fill in the form, specifying if it is partial or not complete.
Guidance on information on national wetland extent can be consulted at: https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidance-on-information-on-national-wetland-extent.
››› There is no national inventory using the classification of the wetland types by the Ramsar convention, we use other classification systems. Many inventories aren’t covering the whole territory or not all subtypes included. The data on peatlands are only including natural or near natural peatlands. Dry peatlands drained for agriculture etc are not included.
The total area in km2 is unknown for the marine and coastal wetland types.
The total area in km2 is 407000 for lakes and rivers.
The total area in km2 is unknown for the inland wetland excluding lakes and rivers.
The total area in km2 is unknown for the human made wetland types.
Since it is only possible to write figures in the fields for total areas, the informaiton is included in text above. Since it is impossible to submitt the form without figures in these fields the figure 0 has been written instead of unknown.

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
A -- Permanent shallow marine waters	Unknown
B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds	Unknown
C -- Coral reefs	0
D -- Rocky marine shores	Unknown

E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores	Unknown
F -- Estuarine waters	Unknown
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	Unknown
Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs	Unknown
H -- Intertidal marshes	Unknown
I -- Intertidal forested wetlands	Unknown
J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons	Unknown
K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons	Unknown
Zk(a) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	Unknown

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km2)

››› 0

8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
L -- Permanent inland deltas	Unknown
M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls	Part of total for lakes and rivers
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks	Unknown
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes	Part of total for lakes and rivers
P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes	Unknown
Q -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes	Part of total for lakes and rivers
R -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats	Unknown
Sp -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	Unknown
Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	Unknown
Tp -- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools	Part of total for lakes and rivers
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils	Unknown

U -- Non-forested peatlands	37000
Va -- Alpine wetlands	Unknown
Vt -- Tundra wetlands	Unknown
W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands	Unknown
Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	Unknown
Xp -- Forested peatlands	15000
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.	Unknown
Zg -- Geothermal wetlands	Unknown
Zk(b) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	Unknown

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

››› 0

8.6 Human-made wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
1 -- Aquaculture ponds.	Unknown
2 -- Ponds	Unknown
3 -- Irrigated land	Unknown
4 -- Seasonally flooded agricultural land	Unknown
5 -- Salt exploitation sites	Unknown
6 -- Water storage areas	Unknown
7 -- Excavations	Unknown
8 -- Wastewater treatment areas	Unknown
9 -- Canals and drainage channels, ditches	Unknown
Zk(c) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	Unknown

8.6 Human-made wetlands total (km2)

››› 0

8.7 How has the ecological character of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since COP14 ? {8.5}

Ecological character is the combination of the ecosystem components, processes and benefits/services that characterize the wetland at a given point in time.
Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Sites	☐ P=Status improved ☑ O=No change ☐ N=Status deteriorated

b) All wetlands in your country	☐ P=Status improved ☑ O=No change ☐ N=Status deteriorated

8.7 Additional Information
››› None.

8.8 On a scale of **1-5** rate the change in the ecological character of wetlands in your country, overall, since last COP
Please select only one per square.

a) Marine/coastal	☐ 5=major improvement ☐ 4=improvement ☑ 3=no change ☐ 2=deterioration ☐ 1=major deterioration
b) Inland	☐ 5=major improvement ☐ 4=improvement ☑ 3=no change ☐ 2=deterioration ☐ 1=major deterioration
c) Human-made	☐ 5=major improvement ☐ 4=improvement ☑ 3=no change ☐ 2=deterioration ☐ 1=major deterioration

8.8 Additional Information
››› Every year we lose approximately as large wetland area as we restore. The situation is a little bit better for the water courses.

8.9 What are your main needs in developing or updating an NWI to suport SDG Indicator 6.6.1 reporting for tracking global wetland status and trends? Please select below. {8.7}

	Yes
a) Access to data and data acquisition standards	☐
b) Wetland delineation methods and approaches	☐
c) Habitat classifications	☐
d) Standardization in data interpretation methods	☐
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	☐
f) Resources	☑
g) Relevant skills	☐
h) Data collection and mapping	☐
i) Collaboration	☐
j) Others	☐

8.9 Additional Information

e.g explain others as referred to in (j)
››› None.

8.10 Please select from the list below the main needs of your country in using NWI results to implement

COP mandates, e.g. conservation and wise use of all wetlands (Resolutions X.2, XIII.12, XIII.I3, XIII.14, XIII.16, XIV.17 and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)) to achieve sustainable development.

	Yes
a) Resources	☑
b) Relevant skills	☐
c) Data systems and management	☑
d) Application of NWI information for decision making (climate, biodiversity and sectoral planning/reporting)	☐
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	☐
f) Data interpretation and communication	☐
g) Collaboration	☐
h) Others	☑

8.10 Additional Information
››› We need to get the database in order and creating new GIS-files that are correct to be able to use the results properly. Until then there is only a simple vector GIS-shape with minimum of data and having plenty of errors that can be used. Later on, it would be nice to make the database publicly available.

Target 9

The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone {1.3.}.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 9, 10 and 15].

9.1 Is a national wetland policy (or equivalent instrument) that promotes the wise use of wetlands in place? {9.1}
☑ A=Yes

9.1 Additional information
››› The national environmental quality objectives (EQOs); for example Thriving Wetlands', 'Flourishing Lakes and Streams' and partly some of the other objectives is seen as the fundamental National Wetland Policy. The Swedish Parliament adopted them and they are described further at https://www.sverigesmiljomal.se/. The objectives describe the environmental state needed in order to achieve sustainable development (wise use) and favourable conservation status. The EQOs apply to all sectors of the Swedish society.
In addition, there are several policy documents as a part of implementing the EQOs. For example, 'National Strategy for Thriving Wetlands' was established by the Swedish EPA in cooperation with the Swedish Forestry Agency, the Swedish Board of Agriculture and the National Heritage Board, and presented to the Swedish Government in October 2005.
The Mire Protection Plan, which identifies around 600 mires that are given priority for legal protection, was revised in 2007.But implementation is very slow. See the indicator on the progress at https://www.sverigesmiljomal.se/miljomalen/myllrande-vatmarker/genomforande-av-myrskyddsplanen/ .
The EU Water Framework Directive is being implemented in Sweden. The Ordinance on Water Quality Management (Förordningen om förvaltning av kvaliteten på vattenmiljön) is the Swedish legislation pursuant to the directive. Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) applied to water bodies were adopted in 2009. River basin management plans and Programme of measures for each river basin district were also adopted in 2009.
The Marine Strategy Framework Directive is being implemented in Sweden. The directive was transposed into Swedish legislation through the Marine Environmental Regulation in 2010.

9.2 Since COP14 have any amendments to existing legislation or policies been made to reflect commitments under the Convention on Wetlands? {9.2}
☑ A=Yes

9.2 Additional information
››› The EU restoration legislation. The EU legislation on banning lead ammunition in wetlands.

9.3 Do your country’s water governance and management systems recognize wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {9.3}
☑ A=Yes

9.3 Additional information
››› Continued works on wetlands are important measures in water management, to achieve good water status relating to the EU Water Framework Directive. Environmental Quality Standards (EQS), River basin management plans and Programme of measures for each river basin district all link to wetland management. The River basin perspecive is also important when working with wetlands and the surrounding landscape while establishing a functional green infrastructure. That is also the case when planning for restoration of wetlands and the climate adaptation.

9.4 Have communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {9.4}
☑ A=Yes

9.4 Additional information
››› Yes, when it comes to certain measures, for example wetland restoration and in projects for eradication of invasive species. More measures are needed.

9.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {9.5}
☑ C=Partially

9.5 Additional information
››› The Environmental Quality Objectives and the National Wetland Strategy address climate change mitigation and adaptation, but more detailed decisions and measures are needed.
We also have some funding programmes for restoration of wetlands for the improvement of different ecosystem services and for biodiversity, some of them also play a role in mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

9.6 Has your country included wetland actions in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other related national policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation?
☑ A=No

9.6 Additional Information
››› None.

9.7 Has your country formulated policies, plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {9.6}
☑ A=Yes

9.7 Additional information
››› The creation of wetlands in agricultural areas helps to achieve the aims of water management. There are several funding programmes for restoration of wetlands for the improvement of different ecosystem services and for biodiversity, some of the also play a role in maintain water in the landscape for farming purposes. During the severe drought in 2018 several farmers expressed that having established wetlands on their land had been a fortunate measure.

9.8 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on: {9.7}
Please select only one per square.

a) agriculture-wetland interactions	☐ C=Planned ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) climate change	☐ C=Planned ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
c) valuation of ecoystem services	☐ C=Planned ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

9.8 Additional information

››› a) Research in the agricultural field has been focused on the ability of wetlands to reduce nutrients in the aquatic environment and also other ecosystem services.
b) Different universities and institutions have performed research relating to effects of climate change, e.g. the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, the University of Lund and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. In 2024 there was a research procject ended about hydrolocical services that included prognosis for climate change.
c) This issue is high on the political agenda in Sweden. Different universities and institutions have performed research on valuation of ecosystems. In 2019 eight research projects started covering hydrological ecosystem services. The projects include present situation and future changes in hydrology due to modelled climate change.The projects were finalised in 2024.

9.9 Has your country made efforts to conserve and wisely use urban and peri-urban wetlands in line with Resolutions XI.11 and XIV.10? {9.8}
☑ C=Partially

9.9 Additional information
››› National legislation is also applicable on wetlands in cities or close to cities. A few municipalites have made measures to restore and/or protect wetlands in or close to citites.

9.10 Has your country made efforts to conserve small wetlands in line with Resolution XIII.21 and XIII.15? {9.9}
☑ A=Yes

9.10 Additional information
››› Not during the triennium asked for. We already had some legislation protecting small wetlands when the resolution was adopted.

Target 10

The traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

10.1 Do you have national legislation or equivalent on indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels in wetland management, and/or Site management?
☑ C1= Partially

10.1 Additional Information
››› There is a general legislation that local communities, including Indigenous Peoples are to be consulted when there are changes on-going in their neighbourhood. This is applicable for changes in site management restrictions and/or site borders.

10.2 If the answer to question 10.1 is “yes”, have the guiding principles for considering the cultural values of wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of Sites (Resolution VIII.19) been used?
☑ C=In preparation

10.2 Additional Information
››› The cultural history is often integrated in the management plans for protected areas as well as in conservation plan.

10.3 Have case studies on the participation of indigenous people in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands been compiled? (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21) {10.1}
☑ B=No

10.3 Additional information
››› None.

10.4 Have the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities’ and indigenous people’s participation in the management of wetlands been applied? (Resolution VII. 8) {10.2}
☑ B=No

10.4 Additional information

If “yes” please list national legislation/policies and actions that consider the needs and participation of indigenous and local communities in wetland management at all relevant levels.
››› Sweden doesn’t have specific guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities’ and indigenous people’s participation when it comes to wetland. It is regulated in the Environmental Code that all concerned should be consulted for example when there are suggested changes on degree of protection and updated management plans in protected areas. Stakeholders are also often invited to participate or are consulted in different projects on how to develop nature preservation further at different sites.

10.5 Have traditional knowledge and management practices relevant to the wise use of wetlands been documented and their application encouraged {10.3}
☑ A=Yes

10.5 Additional information
››› The way the farmers have mowed, and their livestock has grazed wetland habitats are well documented. This also includes the way they have managed water levels at sites to improve the productivity of the land by flooding. The traditional use of wetlands in the reindeer husbandry is also documented. The continuation of mowing and grazing is supported by the government and there are funds that support such activities. Unfortunately, the support for mowing peatlands in the north of the country was cut to zero in the 2023 budget and continued to so in 2024.

Target 11
Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. {1.4.} [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 11, 12 and 13]

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {11.1}
☑ B=No

11.1 Additional information

If “yes” or “partially”, please indicate how many Ramsar Sites and their names
››› Not in particular for specific Ramsar sites. There have been investigations made in 2019 about the ecosystem services for the inundated forests.
https://www.skogsstyrelsen.se/globalassets/projektwebbplatser/grip-on-life-ip/rapporter-grip-on-life/2019.02-ekosystemtjanster-knutna-till-vatmarker-och-svamplan-i-skogslandskapet2.pdf.

11.2 Since COP14, have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to food and water security and hence poverty alleviation been implemented? {11.2}
☑ B=No

11.2 Additional information
››› There have been some work done about drinking water security and food security earlier, but not since the last COP. The objective has been to be better prepared for crisis, not poverty alleviation.

11.3 Since COP14 have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to other benefits for human well-being been implemented?
☑ B=No

11.3 Additional Information
››› The funds for restoring wetlands have except for the benefit of biodiversity also have benefits for example making carbon sources to carbon sinks and maintaining the carbon storage. Hydrological services are also often an outcome of wetland restoration. Many Ramsar Sites and other protected wetlands are important for recreation and out-door activities, which are normally reflected in the management of the sites.

11.4 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {11.3}
☑ B=No

11.4 Additional information

If “yes” or “partially”, please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names
››› Socio-economic issues per se are seldom reflected in management plans for protected areas, even if the protection itself provide such benefits.

11.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands in general? {11.4}

☑ C=Partially

11.5 Additional information
››› All the Ramsar sites that include wetlands that are grazed or mowed (which have a cultural value) have such measures included in management plans for the protected area/-s at such sites. For example: Foteviken-Falsterbo, Vassikkavouma, Hornborgasjön, Ottenby and Getterön. This is also valid for other kinds of protected areas. The local community is often involved in the management measures that carry on the cultural heritage.

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. [Reference Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 2, 8 and 11]

12.1 Have national wetland restoration targets been established?
☑ C=Partially

12.1 Additional Information
››› There is a target for how large area of “terrstrial” wetlands that should be should be restored until 2030. For 'Valuable waters' (Värdefulla vatten) is a national database used for prioritizing restoration actions in streams. The Swedish County Administrative Boards have developed planning documents for restoration of wetlands in the agricultural landscape. Areas where wetland restoration will be particularly important to increase biodiversity and/or reduce the loss of plant nutrition are pointed out. Landowners and other relevant parties are involved throughout the process of planning and restoration. The new EU legislation on restoration might increase the governments ambitions for restoration.

12.2 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {12.1}
☑ C=Partially

12.2 Additional information

If “yes”, please provide a list of sites, specifying wetland types
››› For “terrestrial” wetlands there are efforts done to improve the situation in protected areas, but no proper lists. Other sites of interest for restoration are one that soon will be part of the network of protected sites. For some wetland types there are more detailed information. 'Valuable waters' (Värdefulla vatten) is a national database used for prioritizing restoration actions in streams. The Swedish County Administrative Boards have developed planning documents for restoration of wetlands in the agricultural landscape. Areas where wetland restoration will be particularly important to increase biodiversity and/or reduce the loss of plant nutrition are pointed out. Landowners and other relevant parties are involved throughout the process of planning and restoration. The EU legislation on restoration will result in that proper plans have to be made the next coming years.

12.3 Since COP14 have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been implemented? {12.2}
☑ A=Yes

12.3 If applicable provide information on the extent of restored wetland area and types since last COP, in square kilometres

	Restoration planned m2 or km2	**Under restoration**	**Total Restored**
Marine/Coastal	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Inland	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Human-made	Not a target for hydrological restoration	Not a target for hydrological restoration	Not a target for hydrological restoration

12.3 Additional information

Explain/clarify the data/statistics presented in the table above
››› Restored “terrestrial wetlands” financed with governmental support during 2022 and 2023 is covering 16 750 hectares of which peatlands is the majority. The indicator that measures the removal of physical obstacles in water courses preventing the migration of species have registered 198 projects during 2022-2023. There have been several projects restoring vegetation in shallow marine waters focusing on restoring the vegetation of Zostera marina. The only human-made wetlands that are restored are wetlands that are depending on management by mowing or grazing.

12.4 Have the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.1) and Resolution XII.11 on Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention been implemented? {12.3}
☑ C=Partially

12.4 Additional Information

If “yes” or “partially”, please indicate the progress in implementation
››› There are still on-going projects trying to increase the knowledge on peatland area and volume in the country. The majority of the “terrestrial” wetlands that have been restored since last COP are peatlands.

Target 13

Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10 and 14]

13.1 Have actions been taken to enhance sustainability of wetlands when they are affected by key sectors including
Please select only one per square.

a) Energy	☐ D=Planned ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
b) Mining	☐ D=Planned ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
c) Agriculture	☐ D=Planned ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
d) Tourism	☐ D=Planned ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
e) Urban development	☐ D=Planned ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
f) Infrastructure	☐ D=Planned ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
g) Industry	☐ D=Planned ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
h) Forestry	☐ D=Planned ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
i) Aquaculture	☐ D=Planned ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
j) Fisheries	☐ D=Planned ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes

13.1 Additional Information
››› There are still on-going projects trying to increase the knowledge on peatland area and volume in the country. The majority of the “terrestrial” wetlands that have been restored since last COP are peatlands.

13.2 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact wetlands? {13.1}
☑ C=Partially

13.2 Additional information
››› None.

13.3 Is there a legal requirement in your country to conduct environmental impact assessments for development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) from key sectors (e.g., water, energy, mining and agriculture) that may impact wetlands? {13.2}
☑ C=Some Cases

13.3 Additional information
››› EIAs are used for all kinds of cases when activities are planned, and the impact isn't of minor importance and new permits etc are necessary.

Section 3 - Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.
[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17]

Target 15

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

15.1 Has your country been part of the development and implementation of a Ramsar Regional Initiative?? {15.1}
☑ A=Yes

15.1 Additional information

If "yes", please list the Ramsar Regional Initiatives in which your country is actively involved.
››› Sweden is normally involved in the NorBalWet, but during the last years there hasn't been any on-going projects. All countries are overloaded implementing national measures, right now we think that prioritisation is a good one. Other countries in the NorBalWet are; FI, DK, NO, IS, LT, EE, LV, the most western parts of RU.

15.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {15.2}
☑ B=No

15.2 Additional information

If "yes", please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s).
››› None.

Target 16

Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 21].

16.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {16.1}

Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below
Please select only one per square.

a) At the national level	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=In Progress ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
b) Sub-national level	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=In Progress ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
c) Catchment/basin level	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=In Progress ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
d) Local/site level	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=In Progress ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes

16.1 Additional information

If “yes” or “in progress” to one or more of the four categories above
››› The budget cuttings have resulted in less CEPA activities compared with earlier triennia, for example at nature centres.

16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) that focus on wetlands have been established? {16.2}
a) at Ramsar Sites
☑ E=# centres

››› 0

b) at other wetlands
☑ E=# centres

››› 0

16.2 Additional information
››› During 2021-2024 there were no new visitors’ centres established. A lot of the existing nature centres have been affected by the recent budget cuttings and have restricted their opening hours.

16.3 Does the Contracting Party {16.3}
Please select only one per square.

a) ensure stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?	☐ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes

16.3 Additional information
››› A, The issue of community involvement has high priority in nature conservation in Sweden. It constitutes a cornerstone in the Swedish government’s policy. Local stakeholder involvement is central in the designation of Ramsar sites and protected areas, and in the implementation of Natura 2000 (EU Habitats and Birds Directives).
Due to regulations concerning land tenure and the strong position of landowners in Sweden, their involvement is a prerequisite in wetland restoration. Further, the Swedish Environmental Code states that in connection with the consultation process which takes place prior to the drafting of an environmental impact statement, the operator must obtain and compile available data and consult the other local stakeholders, authorities and organizations concerned.
B, Stakeholders are consulted about suggestions for new or extended Ramsar sites and if protected areas inside the Ramsar sites are going to change their borders, management och regulations for forestry etc.

16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral national Ramsar/wetlands committee? {16.4}
☑ B=No

16.4 Additional information
››› The former Swedish Ramsar Committee that was constituted by the Swedish EPA and a number of NGOs, hasn’t been active this millennia.

16.5 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a national Ramsar/wetlands committee? {16.5}
☑ C=Partially

16.5 Additional information
››› There are fora where wetland matters may be discussed and handled, primarily within the framework of the Environmental Quality Objectives, where it is possible to involve central government agencies, county administrative boards, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and the business sector.
Further, concerning the EU Water Framework Directive, The EU Marine Strategic Framework Directive and the Ordinance on Water Quality Management there are five Water Authorities in charge of water work in their respective district, and each Water Authority has a Water Delegation as a governing board. The Water

Delegations are comprised of representatives from different sectors of society. There are also water management associations and coastal water management associations coordinating local and regional stakeholders. Stakeholders are consulted when writing new guid-lines etc.

16.6 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share the Convention's implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and: {16.6}
Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Site managers	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) other MEA national focal points	☐ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
c) other ministries, departments and agencies	☐ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes

16.6 Additional information
››› The AA usually informs the relevant stakeholders about new resolutions etc. This can take place by e-mail, at different kinds of conferences etc, but there is no fixed structure for it. The earlier existing mechanism have deteriorated due to lack of staff to manage it.

16.7 Has your country organized any Convention on Wetlands-branded World Wetlands Day events, whether led by government or NGOs, since COP14? {16.7}
☑ A=Yes

16.7 Additional information
››› We try to have conferences or similar about wetlands at or in the same week as the Wetlands Day and then we raise the issue on the World Wetland Day. Both in 2022 and 2023 we had seminars about the results from the wetlands restoration. There have also been celebrations arranged on a sub-national/local level. But in general, on the WWD Sweden is covered by snow or cool and rainy and wetland excursions are not the main focus.

16.8 Did your country undertake any campaigns, programmes or projects to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife during the World Wetlands Days since COP14? {16.8}
☑ B=No

16.8 Additional information
››› None.

16.9 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {18.5}
☑ A=Yes

16.9 Additional Information
››› There is a yearly update of the EQO, that published the results every spring. The EQI assessment is focused on wetlands in general. Sometimes it can include information (good examples or bad impact), of specific sites, sometimes Ramsar sites. The oil spill accident at one Ramsar site was mentioned in the assessment for that year. The Ramsar sites and where to find information about them is available at; https://www.naturvardsverket.se/amnesomraden/skyddad-natur/olika-former-av-naturskydd/vatmarker-skyddade-enligt-ramsarkonventionen/

Target 17
Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the Convention's fourth Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

17.1 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency ("donor countries")] Since COP14, has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management efforts in other countries?

{17.3}
☑ A=Yes

17.1 Additional information
››› There have been projects on mangrove restoration, removal of nutrient from wastewater, improving communication between countries that share the same water courses. Some of these projects might be stopped due to a new strategy for the Swedish support of development on other countries, focusing more on trade. The overall budget for the agency and its projects has also been cut. Right now, we do not have the full picture of the changes that are to come, but we know that Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) that have a number of ongoing projects will stop all their project more or less immediately.

17.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency (“donor countries”)] Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed the development of projects by the agency? {17.4}
☑ C=Partially

17.2 Additional information
››› None.

17.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance since COP14] Has your country received financial support specifically for national wetland conservation and management: {17.5}
Please select only one per square.

a) from development assistance agencies of another country?	☑ Z=Not applicable ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
b) from non-national or multilateral development assistance agencies?	☑ Z=Not applicable ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes

17.3 Additional information

for example from which countries or agencies
››› None.

17.4 Has any financial support from the national budget been provided by your country to facilitate the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands? {17.6}
☑ A=Yes

17.4 Additional information

If “yes” please state the amounts, and for which activities.
››› There have been funds for biodiversity in general including wetlands (conservation, restoration, management, eradication of invasive alien species etc). But there has also been an earmarked fund for wetland restoration. Many of these funds have been cut the last years.

Target 18
International cooperation is strengthened at all levels

18.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the national Ramsar /wetland committee? {18.1}
☑ B=No

18.1 Additional information
››› As long as no such Committee exist, no one can be invited.

18.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Convention on Wetland’s Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {18.2}
☑ C=Partially

18.2 Additional information
››› No formal collaboration between the Ramsar AA and the focal point of different UN bodies. However, there is an informal exchange at the Swedish EPA with other NFPs and others involved in the work about international conventions. The exchange is about what is happening in the different conventions and what

kind of issues that are of importance for Sweden.

18.3 Has your country received assistance from any of the following UN or other global and regional bodies and agencies in implementing the Convention on Wetlands since COP14? {18.3}

a) UNEP	☐
b) FAO	☐
c) UNECE	☐
d) UNFCCC	☐
e) Global Environment Facility	☐
f) UNDP	☐
g) UNESCO	☐
h) World Health Organization	☐
i) World Meteorological Organization	☐
j) ITTO	☐
k) The Convention's IOPs	☐

18.3 Additional information

For example describe the support and indicate the amount of funding.
››› Our answer is "No" for each question. I guess the boxes above are to be ticked if the answer is "Yes", but cannot be sure, there is information lacking in the system.

18.4 Has your country established international network(s), such as twinning arrangements, to facilitate knowledge sharing and training related to wetlands that share common features? {18.4}
☑ B=No

18.4 Additional information
››› No formal networks established. As a member state of the EU, Sweden has many opportunities for knowledge sharing in matters relating to biodiversity matters, among many other things.

18.5 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {18.6}
☑ A=Yes

18.5 Additional information
››› There are hundreds of shared transboundary wetland systems with Norway in the form of small lakes and peatlands to larger watercourses, for example the river Trysil-Klarälven. Recently there have been adaptations to parts of the border between Sweden and Norway, resulting in that we have less transboundary wetland systems, the border agreement states that the border in the mountainous area is to follow the borders for the water basins. The river Könkäme-Mounio-Torne älv is the border between Sweden and Finland.
There are also two coastal marine areas that are transboundary, but only small parts fulfil the criteria for Ramsar, the depth of the water is usually more than six metres. The first area is the archipelago south of Haparanda (SE) and Tornio (FI), the second is the inner part of the fiord Idefjord shared between (NO) and (SE).
There are no transboundary Ramsar sites designated but there are Ramsar sites that are adjacent along the border that have been designated separately.
The Ramsar sites of Storkölen (SE) and Kvisleflået (NO),
The Ramsar sites of Mannavuoma (SE) and Lätäseno-Hietajoki (FI).

18.6 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {18.7}
☑ C=Partially

18.6 Additional information
››› There are a number of formal co-operations etc with Denmark, Finland and Norway especially for water

quality and fishing issues. Some examples below;
• Agreement about the border river to Finland
• Co-operation between Swedish and Danish municipalities on water quality in the Öresund.
There is also a strategy published on how co-operation with Norway can be done for some of our common water basins. https://www.vattenmyndigheterna.se/tjanster/publikationer/2023/strategi-for-samverkan-over-gransen-i-bottenhavet.html

18.7 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {18.8}
☑ A=Yes

18.7 Additional information

If “yes”, please list which regional networks or initiatives
››› There is international co-operation within the AEWA focusing on management plans for migrating species in need of extra measures. The work on the common management plan for Anser erythropus was halted due to different opinions.

Target 19

Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and its 4th Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.
[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20]

19.1 Has your country conducted any national needs assessment since COP14 to inform capacity building planning to implement the Convention’s Strategic Plan? {19.1}
☑ B=No

19.1 Additional information
››› None.

19.2 Does your country or institution implement capacity development strategies or actions for the Convention’s Strategic Plan?
☑ B=No

19.2 Additional Information
››› None.

19.3 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes (Resolution XIV.11)? {19.2}
☑ A=Yes

19.3 Additional information
››› All young teenagers are to learn about the different ecosystems and the human impact on such systems. Older teenagers can deepen their knowledge, but the amount of new knowledge for them differ on what choices of education they make.

19.4 How many training events for wetland site managers have occurred since COP14? {19.3}
a) at Ramsar Sites
☑ X=Unknown

b) at other wetlands
☑ X=Unknown

19.4 Additional information
››› There are a number of webinars, workshops since the wetland restoration programme was introduced. The Ramsar handbook is not used.

19.5 Have you (AA) used your previous National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {19.4}
☑ B=No

19.5 Additional information
››› None.