



**NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**National Reports to be submitted to the 13th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2018**

The purpose of this Microsoft Word form is to help Contracting Parties to collect data for the National Report. However, the data collected through this form must be transferred to the online National Reporting system at <https://reports.ramsar.org> or send the Word form by email (nationalreports@ramsar.org) by 21 January 2018 for the official submission of the National Report. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (nationalreports@ramsar.org).

Please note that for Contracting Parties wishing to provide information in the Online Reporting System on national targets (Section 4 optional) of the National Report Format or on the Word Form the deadline is 30 November 2016.

Ramsar COP13 National Report Format (NRF)

Background information

1. The COP13 National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee 52 for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (United Arab Emirates, 2018).
2. The Standing Committee through Decision SC52-07 has also agreed that an online National Reporting format could be made available to Parties by keeping the off-line system and requested the Secretariat to present an evaluation for the next COP regarding the use of the on-line system.
3. The National Report Format is being issued by the Secretariat in 2016 to facilitate Contracting Parties' implementation planning and preparations for completing the Report. The deadline for submission of national targets is by 30 November 2016 and the deadline for submission of completed National Reports is January 21st **2018**.
4. Following Standing Committee discussions, this COP13 NRF closely follows that of the NRF used for COP12, to permit continuity of reporting and analysis of implementation progress by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP12 NRF). It is also structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2016-2024 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP12 as Resolution XII.2.
5. This COP13 NRF includes 92 indicator questions. In addition, Section 4 is provided as an optional Annex in order to facilitate the task of preparing the Party's National Targets and Actions for the implementation of each of the targets of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 according to Resolution XII.2.
6. As was the case for previous NRF, the COP13 Format includes an optional section (Section 5) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information, on indicators relevant to each individual Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site) within its territory.
7. Note that, for the purposes of this national reporting to the Ramsar Convention, the scope of the term "wetland" is that of the Convention text, i.e. all inland wetlands (including lakes and rivers), all nearshore coastal wetlands (including tidal marshes, mangroves and coral reefs) and human-made wetlands (e.g. rice paddy and reservoirs), even if a national definition of "wetland" may differ from that adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

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

8. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention and are made publicly available on the Convention's website.
9. There are seven main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
 - i) provide data and information on how, and to what extent, the Convention is being implemented
 - ii) provide tools for countries for their national planning
 - iii) capture lessons and experience to help Parties plan future action;

- iv) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
 - v) provide a means for Parties to account for their commitments under the Convention;
 - vi) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementing the Convention, and to plan its future priorities; and
 - vii) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
10. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention".
11. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, the Ramsar Secretariat holds in a database all the information it has received and verified. The COP13 reports will be in an online National Reporting system.
12. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
- i) providing an opportunity to compile and analyze information that contracting parties can use to inform their national planning and programming.
 - ii) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global, national and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the COP as a series of Information Papers, including:
 - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level;
 - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance); and
 - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region;
 - iii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP.
 - iv) providing the source data for time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (4th edition, 2010); and
 - v) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP used the COP10 NRF indicators extensively in 2009 to prepare contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems for consideration by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3). Similar use of COP12 NRF indicators is anticipated for the CBD's next such in-depth review.

The structure of the COP13 National Report Format

13. The COP13 National Report Format (NRF) is in five sections:

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

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

Section 3 provides the 92 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation Goals and Targets in the Strategic Plan 2016-2024, and with an optional 'free-text' section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity.

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

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

The planning of national targets offers, for each of them, the possibility of indicating the *national priority* for that area of activity as well as the *level of resourcing available, or that could be made available during the triennium, for its implementation*. In addition, there are specific boxes to indicate the *National Targets* for implementation by 2018 and the *planned national activities* that are designed to deliver these targets.

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

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

General guidance for completing and submitting the COP13 National Report Format

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

14. All Sections of the COP13 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).

15. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is January 21st **2018**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP13.

16. The deadline for submission of national targets is by 30 November 2016

17. All fields with a pale yellow background must be filled in.

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

18. To help Contracting Parties refer to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP12, for each appropriate indicator a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP12 NRF or previous NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}

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

20. Only Strategic Plan 2016-2024 Targets for which there are implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those targets of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted (e.g. targets 6 and 14).

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

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

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

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	<input type="text"/>	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	<input type="text"/>	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer

National Targets (Text Answer):	<i>[Example text]</i> To have comprehensive inventory of all wetlands by 2018
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	<i>[Example text]</i> To update the existing inventory so as to cover all the national territory, and to incorporate relevant information about wetlands, including digital information, when possible
Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	<i>[Example text]</i> A comprehensive inventory of all wetlands
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018	

The input has to be made only in the yellow boxes. For **PRIORITY** and **RESOURCING**, the coded answers are given in the right part of the table (always in *italics*). The answer chosen should be typed inside the yellow box at the left side of the coded options. **TARGETS** and **PLANNED ACTIVITIES** are text boxes; here, Contracting Parties are invited to provide more detailed information in the respective box on their National Targets for achievement in implementation by 2018 and the planned national activities that are designed to deliver these targets.

Please note that only ONE coded option –the one that better represents the situation in the Contracting Party– should be chosen. Blanks will be coded in COP13 National Reports Database as “No answer”.

23. The NRF should ideally be completed by the principal compiler in consultation with relevant colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party’s overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP12 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided. In the online system there will be also an option to allow consultation with others.
24. After each session, **remember to save the file**. A recommended filename structure is: COP13NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP13NRFSpain13January 2018.doc
25. After the NRF has been completed using the word version (offline), please enter the data in the NR online system at this link: <https://reports.ramsar.org> or send it by email (nationalreports@ramsar.org) by January 21st 2018. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice at (nationalreports@ramsar.org).
26. The completed NRF **must be accompanied by a letter that can be uploaded in the online system or send by email (nationalreports@ramsar.org) in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party’s official submission of its COP13 National Report.**

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

National report to Ramsar COP13

Section 1: Institutional Information

Important note: the responses below will be considered by the Ramsar Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points, and will be used to update the information it holds. The Secretariat's current information about your focal points is available at <http://www.ramsar.org/search-contact>.

Name of Contracting Party: JAPAN

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority: Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title: Masaru Horikami, Director

Mailing address: 1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975, Japan

Telephone/Fax: Tel: +81-3-5521-8284 / Fax: +81-3-3581-7090

Email: shizen_yasei@env.go.jp

Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title: Yoshiko Motoyama, Assistant Director, Global Environment Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Kazuhiko Seriu, Researcher, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva

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Email: yoshiko.motoyama@mofa.go.jp
kazuhiko.seriu@mofa.go.jp

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

Name and title: Yuki Iwashina, Senior Researcher

Name of organisation: Japan Wildlife Research Center

Mailing address: 3-3-7 Kotobashi, Sumida-ku, Tokyo 130-8606, Japan

Telephone/Fax: Tel: +81-3-6659-6331 / Fax: +81-3-6659-6333

Email: yiwashina@jwrc.or.jp

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

Name and title: Eiko Okawa, Section Chief

Name of organisation: Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment

Mailing address: 1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975, Japan

Telephone/Fax: Tel: +81-3-5521-8284 / Fax: +81-3-3581-7090

Email: EIKO_OKAWA@env.go.jp

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

Name and title: Miki Sasaki, Secretary General

Name of organisation: Wetlands International Japan (Non-Profit Organization)

Mailing address:	2F Jono Building 2, 17-1 Nihonbashi-Odenmachi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0011, Japan
Telephone/Fax:	Tel: +81-3-5614-2150 / Fax: +81-3-6806-4187
Email:	miki_sasaki@wi-japan.org

Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP12 reporting):

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

- 1) Advancing measures for invasive alien species and conservation, restoration (including cleanup), and public awareness efforts such as environmental education and on-site training at some wetlands.
- 2) Maintaining and revitalizing local agriculture, forestry and fisheries, promoting tourism, maintaining and improving local residents' living environment, and taking flood control and disaster prevention measures through various wetland conservation efforts.
- 3) Preparations for protected-area designation under domestic law and coordination with local stakeholders at some wetlands, with a view to advancing designation of wetlands to the Ramsar Convention.
- 4) Contributing to increased collaboration among Asian countries by holding an Asian Wetland Symposium in Japan.
- 5) Contributing to the promotion of wetland conservation and wise use of wetlands in Asia by supporting new wetland-designation and management trainings in Cambodia.

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

- 1) Insufficient human-, activity- and financial resources to manage several wetlands.
- 2) Challenges in implementing measures against invasive alien species, deterioration of water quality, and aridification at some wetlands.
- 3) Difficulty in promoting the involvement of diverse local stakeholders in conservation efforts and wise use of some wetlands.
- 4) Concerns over the impact of increased tourism in several wetlands on their ecosystems.
- 5) Some wetlands observed difficulties in realizing benefits from designating as Ramsar Sites.

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

- 1) Facilitate securing necessary activity/human resources at local governments, NGOs, etc. by creating tangible benefits for being a Ramsar Site.
- 2) Plan to designate, and expand areas for designation under the Ramsar Convention, with a view to promoting local communities' wetland conservation efforts (on the basis of securing community-wide cooperation and understanding).
- 3) Collaborate with relevant local governments/communities, NGOs, experts, to promote monitoring, research, preparation and updates of RIS databases on the Ramsar Sites.
- 4) Collaborate with relevant local governments, experts and private organizations etc., to facilitate conservation and wise use of wetlands that leverage their respective local context and culture through exchange of information, case studies, publicity campaigns, as well as ideas for support programs.
- 5) Introduce Japan's experience and knowledge on wetland conservation at international fora, thereby contributing to international wetland conservation efforts.

D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

We would like the Ramsar Secretariat to organize/present specific case studies for designating sites under the non-bird criteria, with a view to creating Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance, as it relates to items other than birds.

- E. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)? (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to develop)

Request for technical support programs and case studies in areas where government agencies have proven short of meeting objectives, with a view to producing value of designating as Ramsar Sites.

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

*The Government of Japan formulated the *National Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2020* as a roadmap to achieve the Aichi Targets (global goals 2011-2020). Wetland conservation is positioned as part of its National Action Plan.

*Wetland conservation leads to the realization of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's commitment: i.e., by promoting sustainable management of sinks and reservoirs of all greenhouse gases, including biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems.

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

*The Government of Japan drafted the *National Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2020* as a roadmap to achieve the Aichi Targets (global goals of 2011-2020). Wetland conservation is positioned as part of its National Action Plan.

*Japan's *Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* (formulated in March 2011), which aims at the conservation of biodiversity, and sustainable use of marine ecosystems, including wetlands such as tidal flats, seaweed beds, and coral reefs, aligns with the objectives of the Ramsar Convention (with its aims to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands).

Japan's *Basic Plan on Ocean Policy* (approved by the Cabinet in April 2013), upholds the conservation of marine biodiversity as one of its policy directions, in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and the *Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*, which calls for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

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

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

We solicited opinions of relevant agencies within the Government of Japan.

We also sent out a questionnaire to local governments and NGOs linked to the Ramsar Sites, and solicited their opinions on the draft of this report.

Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

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, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.

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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=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant		
a)	National Policy or strategy for wetland management	A=Yes
b)	Poverty eradication strategies	Y=Not Relevant
c)	Water resource management and water efficiency plans	A=Yes
d)	Coastal and marine resource management plans	A=Yes
e)	Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan	A=Yes
f)	National forest programmes	A=Yes
g)	National policies or measures on agriculture	A=Yes
h)	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	A=Yes
i)	National policies on energy and mining	A=Yes
j)	National policies on tourism	A=Yes
k)	National policies on urban development	A=Yes
l)	National policies on infrastructure	A=Yes
m)	National policies on industry	B=No
n)	National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i	A=Yes
o)	National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management	A=Yes
p)	National policies on wastewater management and water quality	A=Yes

1.1 Additional information:

a) The wetland policy, as outlined in the National Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2020 (approved by the Cabinet in September 2012), is positioned as Japan's national wetland policy.

c) Japan's river corridor improvement plan also addresses issues related to wetlands.

In addition, Japan's National Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2020 calls for the upgrading of water environment linked to rivers and wetlands.

d) Recognizing the importance of ecosystem services from coral reef ecosystems, the *Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reef Ecosystems in Japan 2016-2020* raises the following as key issues to focus on for the conservation of coral reef ecosystems: measures against land-based sources of pressure, sustainable tourism, and the establishment of measures to be taken jointly with local communities.

Furthermore, the *Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* outlines the necessity to endorse measures based on the characteristics of coastal areas, while the *National Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2020* calls for the integrated conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity.

e) In the *Guidance for making Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan*, we lay out the basic direction for local public bodies and various interested stakeholders to formulate a master plan on managing coastal zones, such as ensuring the sustainability of diverse functions and resources of coastal areas, harmonizing their use and conservation, and taking into consideration the mutual interaction among water, earth and biological environment.

f) Through the *Forest and Forestry Basic Act*, the Government of Japan mandates the protection and management of forests by the water, such as valley forests. In addition, with a view to improving/maintaining overall biological diversity, the National Forest Plan mandates the conservation of forests, including valley forests, where unique organisms inhabit across land and water.

With regard to forests that possess virgin woodland ecosystems and wetlands with primeval forest ecosystems and rare wildlife habitats, the *Basic Plan on the Administrative Management for National Forests* calls for their designation as protected forests that are to be subject to strict conservation and management.

Furthermore, the Government of Japan has established a forest reserve system called the "Protected Forest for Fish Breeding," that supports fish inhabitation and breeding via functions such as improving shading by forests, raising the supply of nutrients, and preventing water pollution.

g) *The Biodiversity Strategy of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries* (issued in February, 2012 --- a guideline to facilitate agriculture, forestry, and fishery practices that emphasizes biodiversity conservation) mentions the importance of conservation of biodiversity in wetlands, such as rice paddies, which serve as important habitats for various organisms such as water birds.

Furthermore, in the *National Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2020*, the government highlights the promotion of agricultural production focusing on biodiversity conservation.

a) The wetland policy, as outlined in the National Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2020 (approved by the Cabinet in September 2012), is positioned as Japan's national wetland policy.

i) The *Third Basic Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society* refers to the need to consider the influence of mining activities on the environment.

j) Japan's *Tourism Nation Promotion Basic Plan* (approved by the Cabinet in March 2017, p.23, 28) calls for the need to promote conservation and appropriate use of its abundant and precious natural environment, with its forests, rivers, lakes/reservoirs, mountains, coasts a coral reefs. The Plan also calls for the promotion of environmental education and outdoor activities at waterfronts, such as tidal flats.

k) Japan's *Basic Policy on Urban Renaissance* calls for the promotion of coexistence of cities with nature, and reduction of urban pressure on the environment. This is to be achieved through securing a favorable environment for water, such as conserving biological diversity via restoring and establishing greenbelts and waterfronts, improving air and soil conditions, promoting urban water recycling, and improving the technology for sewage treatment.

l) The *Grand Design for the Urban Environmental Infrastructure in the National Capital Region*, formulated in 2004, presented a future vision of an urban environmental infrastructure for the capital city (Tokyo) area, designed to achieve 14 basic environmental targets for the city. In this document, the government laid out courses of action to realize this future vision, from the city center, farmland, to coastal areas.

n) Japan's *Basic Plan for Fisheries* (page 17 and 25) prescribes the promotion of conservation and creation of seaweed beds and tidal flats, in addition to promoting the conservation and construction of habitats and breeding environment for aquatic organisms in rivers.

o) The *Third Basic Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society* (approved by the Cabinet in May, 2013) prescribes the development of proper disposal systems for wastes including toxic substances.

p) Japan's *National Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2020* calls for the improvement of water quality in rivers, lakes and reservoirs, and to take measures against pollution in coastal sea areas.

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.*

COP13 REPORT	
2.1 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed to support the implementation of the Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1, VIII.2) ? 1.24.	C=Partially
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>2.1 Additional information:</p> <p>There are dams in Japan that discharge water for the purpose of conserving the river environment around downstreams of dams. Thus far, the measures have had some positive effect on improving water quality in the backwater area and river landscapes, renewing algae growth, and assisting movement of fish along rivers.</p>	
2.2 Have assessments of environmental flow been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands (Action r3.4.iv)	C=Partially
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>2.2 Additional information:</p> <p>*In nature restoration projects at some wetlands such as Kushiro-shitsugen marsh and Sarobetsu- genya, efforts are undertaken to restore desirable groundwater levels and to conserve/restore the quality of influent streams, based on the analysis of current water-environment conditions.</p> <p>*For the construction of roads and railroads that exceeds a certain scale, business operators conduct in advance an environmental impact assessment, which includes assessing their impact on adjacent wetlands.</p> <p>In reviewing the routes of Hokuriku Shinkansen train plan to be constructed near Nakaikemi- shicchi wetland, the operator conducted an impact analysis on flow rate, groundwater level, and precipitation, and analyzed the impact that construction will have on nearby groundwater. Following the analysis, a route predicted to have minimal change in groundwater was selected.</p>	
	C=Partially

2.3 Have Ramsar Sites improved the sustainability of water use in the context of ecosystem requirements?	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; O= No Change; X= Unknown
<p>2.3 Additional information:</p> <p>*Lake Biwa (Biwako) is a valuable water source for approximately 14.5 million people in the Kinki region, and has been supported by ongoing water conservation efforts.</p> <p>*Maruyama River serves as the central water source for a number of wetlands, including rice paddies, situated in the lower Maruyama River area. In this area, the government conducts wetland conservation activities that focuses on reintroducing Storks in the wild.</p> <p>*In Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies, farmers have adopted a cultivation method that floods rice paddies after harvesting, even during the winter. These flooded rice paddies provide a place for geese and ducks to roost, feed and rest.</p>	
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. (Action 3.4.6.)	B=No A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
2.4 Additional information:	
2.5 Have projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands been developed (Action r3.4.ix.)	C=Partially A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>2.5 Additional information:</p> <p>In nature restoration projects at some wetlands such as Kushiro-shitsugen marsh and Sarobetsu-genya, efforts are undertaken to restore desirable groundwater levels and to conserve/restore the quality of influent streams, based on the analysis of current water-environment conditions. (<i>Kushiro-Shitsugen Revitalization Plan</i>, Chapter 5, Section 4; <i>Upper Sarobetsu Revitalization Plan</i>, Chapter 4)</p>	
2.6 How many household/municipalities are linked to sewage system? SDG Target 6.3.1.	E=47 municipalities E=# household/municipalities; F= Less than #; G=More than #; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.6 Additional information:	
2.7 What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country? SDG Target 6.3.1.	E=78.3 percent E=# percent; F= Less than # percent; G= More Than # percent; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.7 Additional information: Coverage rate as of March 2017.	

2.8 What is the percentage of users of septic tank/pit latrine? SDG Target 6.3.1.	X=Unknown
	E=# percent; F=Less Than # percent; G= More Than # percent; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.8 Additional information:	

2.9 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? SDG Target 6.3.1.	C=Partially
	A= Yes, B= No; C= Partially, D=,Planned X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.9 Additional information: Currently, participants from the private sector and universities (in Hokkaido, Tohoku region, etc.) are operating constructed wetlands for drainage treatment at animal husbandries. Constructed wetlands are studied as a means to treat wastewater in a decentralized manner.	

2.10 How do the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology perform? SDG Target 6.3.1.	C=Functioning;
	A=Good; C=Functioning; B=Not Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown Y= Not Relevant
2.10 Additional information: Currently, participants from the private sector and universities (in Hokkaido, Tohoku region, etc.) are operating constructed wetlands for drainage treatment at animal husbandries. Constructed wetlands are studied as a means to treat wastewater in a decentralized manner.	

2.11 How many centralised wastewater treatment plants exist at national level? SDG Target 6.3.1.	E=around 2,200 plants
	E= # plants; F= Less than #; G=More than #; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.11 Additional information:	

2.12 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants? SDG Target 6.3.1.	C=Functioning
	A=Good; C=Functioning; B=Not Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.12 Additional information: In Japan, efficient and appropriate wastewater treatment facilities are equipped, in line with the respective conditions of each region, on full consideration of the properties of the respective	

wastewater treatment facilities, such as sewers, community sewage systems and sewage treatment tanks, etc.

2.13 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is? SDG Target 6.3.1.	9.14%
	A=Good; C=Functioning; B=Not Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X=Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.13 Additional information: The penetration rate of decentralized sewage treatment tank as of the end of fiscal year 2015.	

2.14 Is there a wastewater reuse system? SDG Target 6.3.1	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
2.14 Additional information: *At some regions and buildings, non-drinking water, such as sewage-recycled water and rain water, is used for general purposes such as for washing, flushing, landscaping works, water sprinkling, car washing, and air conditioning, etc. *The Government of Japan is promoting the recycling of industrial wastewater. As of 2014, the recycling rate is 78.9%. *With regard to wastewater and sludge at sewage plants from farming communities, the government is advancing its reuse in agricultural water and land applications, respectively.	

2.15 What is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system? SDG Target 6.3.1.	R=Agriculture and T=Industrial
	R=Agriculture; S=Landscape; T=Industrial; U=Drinking; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

2.15 Additional information: Please indicate if the wastewater reuse system is for free or taxed or add any additional information. *At some regions and buildings, non-drinking water, such as sewage-recycled water and rain water, is used for general purposes such as for washing, flushing, landscaping works, water sprinkling, car washing, and air conditioning, etc. *The Government of Japan is promoting the recycling of industrial wastewater. As of 2014, the recycling rate is 78.9%. *With regard to wastewater and sludge at sewage plants from farming communities, the government is advancing its reuse in agricultural water and land applications, respectively.	
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Target.3. Public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands. {1.10}

<p>3.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {1.10.1} KRA 1.10.i</p> <p>3.1 民間セクターに対して、湿地に関する活動と投資を行うに際してラムサール条約の賢明な利用原則と手引き（ラムサール賢明な利用ハンドブック）を活用することを奨励したか。</p>	<p>B=No</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p> <p>A=はい、B=いいえ、C=一部、D=計画がある</p>
<p>3.1 Additional information: Given Japan-specific circumstances, this guidance is not necessary applicable in all cases.</p>	

<p>3.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the conservation, wise use and management of? {1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii:</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) Wetlands in general</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p> <p>a) C=Partially</p> <p>b) C=Partially</p>
<p>3.2 Additional information: Private-sector companies, nonprofit organizations, wetland centers, tourist associations and fishermen's unions, etc. are undertaking restoration projects and conservation activities that include measures for cleanup and combatting invasive alien species. They also conduct research, environmental education, public awareness and hands-on experience activities to advance the Convention.</p>	

<p>3.3 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i</p>	<p>C=Partially</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>3.3 Additional information: The following examples of initiatives and support programs have been implemented in Ramsar Sites in Japan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Conducting rice farming that encourages habitation and conservation of birds and endangered species of wild fauna and flora. Rice harvested from those paddies command a higher price than the standard product. -Branding and selling agricultural/aquatic products and gaming meat that have been secured via sustainable methods and/or harvested at Ramsar Sites. -Adding value to crop harvested from designated Ramsar Sites by processing them into commercial products, such as rice wine and cosmetics products made from lotus roots. -Promoting tourism in the area that encompasses wetlands by appealing to the "Ramsar" brand name. -Supporting biodiversity conservation activities in wetland areas through the government's biodiversity-conservation subsidy program. -Implementing agricultural subsidies directed toward sustainable farming practices, such as winter flooding of rice paddies. 	

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

*In order to stimulate the recognition of the importance of wetlands and their surrounding forest areas, as well as their conservation and restoration, the Government of Japan appointed areas to be labeled as *Important Satochi-Satoyama (rural landscapes formed by sustainable use of natural resources) from the Viewpoint of Biodiversity* in 2015, and *Important Wetlands from the Viewpoint of Biodiversity* in 2016.

*When designating an area as a Ramsar Site, the Government of Japan mandates domestic protective measures to be taken (e.g. the establishment of protected areas) as one of the key requirements.

*At the respective wetlands, municipal governments guide agricultural practices that seek to strike a balance between farming and conservation, create rules on wise use and disseminate them, call for the extermination of invasive alien species and ban their release, as well as issue warnings against poaching in the wetlands.

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.*

COP13 REPORT	
4.1 Does your country have a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i	A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>4.1 Additional information:</p> <p><i>The Invasive Alien Species Act (IAS Act), enacted in June 2004, was amended in June 2013, in order to exercise control over hybrid species. Based on this Act, 146 invasive alien species were specified as damaging or have the threat to damage the ecosystem, as of January 2018, and inventoried as such. Furthermore, in March 2015, the Government of Japan compiled a list of invasive alien species, including those species that are not yet subject to regulation, that could cause damage to the Japanese ecosystem. These include many species that are dependent on wetlands for inhabitation and growth.</i></p>	
4.2 Have national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management been established or reviewed for wetlands? {1.9.2} KRA 1.9.iii	A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>*To prevent the damage on the ecosystem by invasive alien species, the Government of Japan has adopted the <i>Basic Policy for Preventing Adverse Effects on Ecosystems Caused by Invasive Alien Species</i>, which is based on the <i>Invasive Alien Species Act</i>. It also publicizes the control and removal details on the 99 invasive alien species that have been identified and executed by the Government of Japan.</p> <p>*Based on the above measures, the Government of Japan, in FY2017, conducted a review on effective control methods against invasive alien species, and worked to establish locally-driven extermination and control systems at the Ramsar Sites of Lake Utonai, Izu Swamp and Uchi Swamp, Tateyama Midagahara and Dainichidaira, Lake Biwa (Biwako) and Lake Imuta.</p>	

4.3 How many invasive species are being controlled through management actions?.	<p>E=18 species</p> <p>E= # species; F=Less than #; G=More than #; C=Partially; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p> <p>E= # plants; F= Less than #; G=More than #; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
<p>4.3 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):</p> <p>*The Government of Japan has been conducting extermination projects on 18 invasive alien species.</p> <p>*Through the public multifunctional subsidy scheme (subsidy for activities to enhance multifunctionality in agriculture), the Government of Japan has been driving extermination of alien species such as largemouth bass at reservoirs connecting to the rice paddies.</p>	

4.4 Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?	<p>C=Partially</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>4.4 Additional information:</p> <p>The Government of Japan has been verifying the effectiveness of its invasive alien species extermination projects, and have been identifying their issues and potential solutions with regard to several wetlands, such as Lake Imuta, Izu Swamp, Uchi Swamp and Lake Biwa (Biwako).</p>	

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 {2.1.}*

COP13 REPORT	
5.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List</i> ? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	<p>A=Yes</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>5.1 Additional information:</p> <p>*The Government of Japan developed a list of potential candidate Ramsar Sites that satisfy the criteria of Wetlands of International Importance in 2010.</p> <p>*Through <i>the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020</i>, approved by the Cabinet in September 2012, the Government of Japan decided to promote the designation and expansion of Ramsar Sites on those wetlands where conservation activities by local communities are deemed to be executed promptly upon their designation, based on the premise that they cooperate toward that end.</p>	

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

5.3 How many Ramsar Sites have an effective, implemented management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	E=50 sites
	E= # sites; F=Less than #; G=More than #; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.4 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i	E=50 sites
	E= # sites; F=Less than #; G=More than #; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.5 For how many Ramsar Sites is effective management planning currently being implemented (outside of formal management plans ? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	G=More than 22
	E= # sites; F=Less than #; G=More than #; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.3 – 5.5 Additional information: *In Japan, the wetlands that are being designated as Ramsar Sites are usually designated as one of the following: National Parks, Quasi-National Parks, National Wildlife Protection Area or Natural Habitat Conservation Area. When these designations are made, the government drafts plans that include conservation and management of wetlands in National Parks, Designation Plans for Wildlife Protection Areas and/or Guidelines for Conservation in Natural Habitat Conservation Areas. *In addition to above, there are some regions that have drafted and implemented their own conservation-project implementation plans that contain references to wetland management. Furthermore, some prefectures, municipalities or local councils (comprised of regional stakeholders) have drafted and implemented their own management plans concerning conservation, restoration and application of the natural environment including wetlands.	

5.6 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 ? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii	C=Partially
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
5.6 Additional information: *With regard to Ramsar Sites that are designated as National Parks, Quasi-National Parks, or National Wildlife Protection Areas, the assessments are conducted, as necessary, when the management plans of National or Quasi-National Parks are reviewed, or when the management plans of Wildlife Protection Areas are amended. *Similarly, there are some wetland-management plans, formulated by prefectural and municipal governments and local councils, that undergo periodic reviews, in order to assess their effectiveness and identify issues.	

	G=More than 33
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5.7 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.4} {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	E= # sites; F=Less than #; G=More than #; C= Partially; X=Unknown, Y=Not Relevant;
<p>5.7 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):</p> <p>*Nature-restoration conferences are held at the following wetlands in Japan: Kushiro Shitsugen Marsh (205), Sarobetsu-genya (1555), Izu-numa and Uchi-numa (318), Nakaumi (1551). Wetland-conservation councils and committees have been established at the following wetlands in Japan: Lake Kucharo (439), Lake Utonai (Bibi-gawa River) (539), Lake Tofutsu (1557), Lake Furen and Shunkuni-tai (1542), Onuma (2058), Hotokenuma (1543), Oyama kami-ike and Shimo-ike (1844), Sakata (820), Hinuma (2232), Katano-kamoike (616), Kabukuri Swamp and the surrounding rice paddies (1545), Kejo Swamp (1843), Watarase-yusuichi (2061), Yoshigadaira Wetlands (2233), Tokai Hilly Land Spring-fed Mires (2060), Fujimae-tidal flat (1200), Five Lakes of Mikata (1549), Lake Biwa (Biwako)(617), Lower Maruyama River and the surrounding rice paddies (2055), Kushimoto Coral Communities (1548), Higashiyoka-tidal flat (2234), Hizen Kashima-tidal flat (2235), Arao-tidal flat (2054), Kuju Bogatsuru and Tadewara marshes (1547), Yakushima Nagata Bay (1559), Keramashoto Coral Reef (1546), and Nagura Amparu (1550).</p> <p>*In addition to local councils, regional collaborative organisations, such as Hokkaido Ramsar Network and Kushiro International Wetland Centre, manage a number of Ramsar wetlands together.</p>	
5.8 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared (see Resolution X.15)? {2.4.5}{2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	E=50 sites E=# sites; F=Less than #; G=More than #; C= Partially #; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
<p>5.8 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):</p> <p>It has been prepared for all Ramsar Sites including Kushiro-Shitsugen Marsh (No.205).</p>	
5.9 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i	A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Sites
<p>5.9 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15, and the source of the information):</p> <p>*With regard to Ramsar Sites that are designated as National Parks, Quasi-National Parks, or National Wildlife Protection Areas, the assessments are conducted, as necessary, when the management plans of National or Quasi-National Parks are reviewed, or when the management plans of Wildlife Protection Areas are amended. (However, the data and information are not registered in the Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME), since they do not fully satisfy the registration criteria.)</p> <p>*Similarly, there are some wetland-management plans, formulated by prefectural and municipal governments and local councils, that undergo periodic reviews, in order to assess their effectiveness and identify issues. For example, management plans were reviewed and amended via local government/council deliberations for the following wetlands: Kabukuri Swamp (2011), Miyajima Swamp (2012), Sakata (2014), Lower Maruyama River and the surrounding rice</p>	

paddies (2015), Nakaumi (2015), and Lake Biwa (Biwako) (2016) (based on prefectural/municipal governments questionnaire results).

Target 7. Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed {2.6.}.

COP13 REPORT	
7.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Sites; D=Planned
7.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established): The Ministry of the Environment's regional offices, which have jurisdiction over each Ramsar Site, are to inform such issues to the ministry headquarters' wildlife division, where administrative authority on the issue resides. Furthermore, the country's Biodiversity Center informs the ministry headquarters, the monitoring- and survey results of non-Ramsar Sites, such as lakes/reservoirs, tidal flats, and coral reefs.	
7.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i	O=No Negative Change
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Cases; O=No Negative Change
7.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):	
7.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii	Z=Not Applicable
	A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
7.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken): No Ramsar Site in Japan has been listed on the Montreux Record.	

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 {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

COP13 REPORT	
8.1 Does your country have a complete National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned
8.1 Additional information: In 2002, the Government of Japan published “500 Important Wetlands in Japan,” which were selected from the view point of biological diversity conservation. Since then, the government has conducted another review, based on experts’ opinions. In 2016, the government published another documentation on wetlands, called “Important Wetlands from the Viewpoint of Biodiversity.”	
8.2 Has your country updated a National Wetland Inventory in the last decade?	A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; C1= Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
8.2 Additional information: *In 2002, the Government of Japan published “500 Important Wetlands in Japan,” which were selected from the view point of biological diversity conservation. Since then, the government has conducted another review, based on experts’ opinions. In 2016, the government published another documentation on wetlands, called “Important Wetlands from the Viewpoint of Biodiversity.” *We continue to monitor tidal flats, eelgrass beds, seaweed beds, and seabird breeding sites etc. at the Pacific coast area in the north-east Tohoku region, affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, keeping a record to see if there is any change in the ecosystem. *Out of the potential candidate Ramsar Sites (hereinafter referred to as “potential candidate sites”), published by the Ministry of the Environment in 2010, the government conducted surveys on 7 of the potential candidate sites affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, and compiled their findings in a report.	
8.3 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
8.3 Additional information: With regard to some important wetlands, the Government of Japan conducts surveys and collect information as part of the National Survey on the Natural Environment.	
8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
8.4 Additional information: They are accessible to the general public via a website.	

<p>8.5 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed during the last triennium? {1.1.3}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please describe on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>N=Status Deteriorated; O=No Change; P=Status Improved</p> <p>a) O=No Change b) O=No Change</p>
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8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b):

a) *No remarkable change in the ecological character of the wetlands have been found in the last three years, even though a *decrease* in native fauna and flora, an expansion in the spread of invasive species, and trampling/grazing by deers were identified in some sites. This is based on a finding from the Ministry of the Environment's monitoring surveys on some wetlands in Japan, that also includes some Ramsar Sites, such as lake and reservoir, marshland, secondary water environment, rocky shore, tidal flat, eelgrass bed, seaweed bed, and coral reefs, etc.

*According to a questionnaire to prefectural/municipal governments and NGOs, there has been some changes in biota, such as an increase in the spread of invasive alien species and aridification at some Ramsar Sites, though there has also been some signs of preservation and improvement in the natural environment from the effect of conservation projects.

b) A decrease in coral cover was observed in some coral reefs, outside of the Ramsar Sites, due to severe coral bleaching.

<p>8.6 Based upon the National Wetland Inventory if available please provide a baseline figure in square kilometres for the extent of wetlands (according to the Ramsar definition) for the year 2017. SDG Target 6.6</p>	<p>E=1,480km²</p> <p>E= # Km² ; F=Less than #; G=More than #; A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
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8.6 Additional information: If the information is available please indicate the % of change in the extent of wetlands over the last three years.

With regard to Ramsar Sites in Japan, 4 wetlands were newly designated and the area of one Ramsar Site was expanded in 2015. This has resulted in an increase in the area of Ramsar Sites in Japan by 7.3% from the last triennium, to 1,480km² (totaling 50 sites).

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.}.*

COP13 REPORT	
<p>9.1 Is a Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) that promotes the wise use of wetlands in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i (If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	<p>A=Yes</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned</p>

9.1 Additional information:
 *The wetland policy, as outlined in the *National Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2020* (approved by the Cabinet in September 2012), is positioned as Japan’s national wetland policy. In this Strategy, the country calls for the promotion of conservation and wise use of wetlands, leveraging the climate and culture of each Ramsar Site, and supporting building strategies for conservation and wise use of Ramsar Sites, and publicizing relevant case studies.
 *The Ministry of the Environment has launched a project entitled “Connecting and Supporting Forests, Villages, Rivers and the Sea” to promote safe and prosperous nation-building while benefiting from forests, villages, rivers, the sea, and wetlands. Since FY2016 to FY2018, 10 model regions have been set up, building a platform comprised of diverse entities, to develop a self-sustaining economic architecture.

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

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	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
9.3 Additional information: *Matters concerning wetlands, including river, are addressed in the topic of water resources management in river corridor improvement plans. *Irrigation water around rice paddies is essential water infrastructure for neighbouring water-resources management, while also contributing to landscape formation and ecosystem conservation.	

9.4 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.7.2}{1.7.3}	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
9.4 Additional information: *The idea of promoting environmental education is incorporated in most of the implementation plans that are based on the <i>Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration</i> for nature restoration projects for wetlands such as rivers, moors and tidal flats, including Kushiro-Shitsugen marsh. *The content of CEPA is incorporated in the respective management plans of the following wetlands: Yatsu-tidal flat, Sakata, Fujimae-tidal flat, Lake Tofutsu, Kabukuri Swamp plus surrounding rice paddies, Kejo Swamp, Onuma, Watarase-yusuichi, Yoshigadaira Wetlands, Arao-tidal flat, Hizen Kashima-tidal flat, Higashiyoka-tidal flat, etc.	

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

9.5 Additional information:

**The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020* (approved by the Cabinet in September, 2012) calls for the objective to contribute to the adaptation and mitigation of climate change by raising the resilience of the ecosystem and their storage of carbon dioxide via conserving and restoring the ecosystem that includes wetlands.

*For infrastructure projects and land use, the *National Spatial Planning Act* (approved by the Cabinet in August, 2015) upholds the promotion of green infrastructure that actively leverages nature's diverse functions, such as controlling the increase in temperature.

<p>9.6 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.4} {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v</p>	<p>A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>9.6 Additional information: *In order to facilitate the implementation of Resolution X.31, the <i>Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade Action Plan 2013</i> was formulated under the leadership of a non-profit organization. This has led to sustained interaction among farming communities nationwide to implement this objective. *As one of its objectives, <i>the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020</i> cites facilitation of the balance between biodiversity conservation and sustainable farming production, such as maintaining agricultural production, while managing the production base. *Some municipal governments have issued ordinance and/or implemented plans, projects, demonstration experiments, etc. that encourage farming that takes into consideration biodiversity in wetlands.</p>	
<p>9.7 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on: a) agriculture-wetland interactions b) climate change c) valuation of ecosystem services {1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned a) A=Yes b) A=Yes c) A=Yes</p>

9.7 Additional information:

*With regard to a), farmers, citizens and researchers in Japan conduct *the Survey on Living Creatures in Rice Paddies* on an ongoing basis. According to a non-profit organization’s survey result, 5668 species have been found in rice paddies. These organizations share information from the survey results with countries like the Republic of Korea, and have built up a knowledge base on agriculture and wetlands, centred around rice paddies, on which migratory birds and rare species inhabit, such as in Kabukuri-numa (Greater White-fronted Goose), Sado Island (Japanese Crested Ibis), and Lower Maruyama River (Oriental Stork). That knowledge base was further enhanced by the Ministry of the Environment’s evaluation of the economic value of moors and tidal flats in Japan in fiscal 2014.

*With regard to b), research on wetlands, taking into account of the influence of climate change, was conducted in 2011, using the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund.

*With regard to b), the Japanese Ministry of the Environment, in its Anatidae survey report of FY2008-2012 (published in March2015), reports its findings that climate change was one of the drivers of change in the wintering distribution of Greater White-fronted Goose and swans.

*With regard to b), Japanese research institutions such as universities are researching topics on green infrastructure to address various issues that include rising concerns about disaster risks such as climate change.

*With regard to c), the Ministry of the Environment evaluated the economic value of moors and tidal flats in Japan in FY2014, and published its estimates.

The Ministry of the Environment leverages its Environment Research and Technology Development Fund (its own competitive fund for research) to develop an evaluation method to assess the multi-dimensional value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, with a view to conserving and restoring wetlands.

*With regard to a), b) and c), research is also conducted by prefectural/municipal governments and non-governmental organizations that are relevant to the Ramsar Site.

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

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 on of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.*

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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)	B=No A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; C1= Partially; D= Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

10.1 Additional information:
The Government of Japan does not explicitly use the guiding principles of Resolution VIII.19. Owing to its abundance of secondary forests and other natural environment, Japan has a traditional culture and lifestyle that has coexisted with wetlands, well before the adoption of Resolution VIII.19.

10.2 Have case studies, participation in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands been compiled. Resolution VIII.19 and Resolution IX.21? (Action 6.1.6)	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned

10.2 Additional information: (If yes please indicate the case studies or projects documenting information and experiences concerning culture and wetlands).
*Wetland International Japan prepared a national inventory of information concerning culture and wetlands, collecting over 150 case studies. Of those case studies, 33 were selected and compiled into a booklet entitled, *33 Examples of the Cultures and Technologies of wetlands in Japan -Relationships with Local People and Communities*.
*Prefectural/municipal governments and private sector entities relevant to Ramsar Sites compiled information on wetlands and the region's traditional culture and livelihood/skills, disseminating the information via brochure, information centers, website, educational materials, DVDs, etc.

10.3 Have the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands been used or applied. (Resolution VII. 8) (Action 6.1.5)	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned

10.3 Additional information: (If the answer is "yes" please indicate the use or application of the guidelines)
*As wetlands in Japan often lie close to human dwellings, many villagers' participate in wetland management.
*There are many councils and municipal governments that enable local people and stakeholders to participate in the policymaking process for conservation, wise use and management of wetlands in Japan.

10.4 Traditional knowledge and management practices relevant for the wise use of wetlands have been documented and their application encouraged (Action 6.1.2)	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned

10.4 Additional information:
*Traditional fishing and agriculture, hunting, and management skills relevant to the wise use of wetlands have been documented and widely publicized via events and publications, such as brochures and booklets.
*For example, prefectural/municipal governments and private sector entities relevant to Ramsar Sites compiled information on wetlands and the region's traditional culture and livelihood/skills, disseminating the information via brochure, information centers, website, educational materials, DVDs, etc.

Target 11. Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. {1.4.}

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	C1=Partially

<p>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]</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; C1=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>11.1 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):</p> <p>*The Government of Japan has developed a method to quantitatively assess the effect of eco-friendly sustainable agriculture on biodiversity conservation in paddy fields, and has published this as a manual.</p> <p>*Traditional fishing and agriculture, hunting, and management skills relevant to the wise use of wetlands have been documented and widely publicized via events and publications, such as brochures and booklets.</p> <p>*The Ramsar Symposium at Nakaumi and Lake Shinji in 2016 led to the collection and sharing of experience, skills and methods on the conservation and wise use of wetlands, including the benefit of wetland ecosystems.</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>Y=Not Relevant</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>11.2 Additional information:</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>C=Partially</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>11.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):</p> <p>*Some prefectural and municipal governments included socio-economic values of wetlands in their own management plans for Ramsar Sites.</p> <p>*The grand design for nature restoration for Kushiro-Shitsugen Marsh, Mikata-Five Lakes, and Nakaumi, while not an official management plan, has incorporated socio-economic values of wetlands in its conceptual frameworks.</p>	

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii	C=Partially A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>11.4 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):</p> <p>*The grand design for nature restoration for Kushiro-Shitsugen Marsh, Mikata-Five Lakes, and Nakaumi, while not an official management plan, has incorporated cultural values of wetlands in its conceptual frameworks.</p> <p>*The conservation management plans incorporate cultural values for wetlands that have been designated as a historic site, scenic views, or a natural monument, in addition to landscapes that have been designated as important cultural landscapes incorporating rice terrace, waterfront, and/or river basins.</p> <p>*Some prefectural and municipal governments included cultural values of wetlands in their own management plans for Ramsar Sites.</p>	

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

COP13 REPORT	
12.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i	C=Partially A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
<p>12.1 Additional information:</p> <p>In Japan, priority sites for wetland restoration are identified by diverse local entities, such as relevant administrative agencies, local governments, local communities, non-profit organizations and experts.</p>	
12.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been effectively implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i	A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
<p>12.2 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if available the extent of wetlands restored):</p> <p>*The Government of Japan is developing river corridors, based on the river corridor improvement plans.</p> <p>*Furthermore, there are many regions in Japan that are implementing wetland restoration projects, such as dirt excavation, aridification-rehabilitation, waterweed restoration and invasive alien species extermination. In wetlands like Lake Man and Sekisei Lagoon, the government is monitoring and conducting research on the status of tidal flat recovery, in order to review the effectiveness of the wetland rehabilitation projects implemented thus far.</p>	

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

COP13 REPORT	
13.1 Have actions been taken to enhance sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands?	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
<p>13.1. Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p> <p>The following measures have been taken in Japan to enhance sustainability of above sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Restoring rivers/wetland environment to their original state and preserving that condition for organisms to inhabit and breed. -Executing environmental conservation measures, as necessary, when building new and/or additional power plants or public infrastructure that exceed a certain scale, on the basis of environmental-impact assessments made by the associated business operators ahead of the project, as mandated by the law. -Taking mitigation measures in the case of suspected damage to wetlands when implementing projects on water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries. These measures are taken by prefectural and municipal governments that are associated with managing wetlands. 	
13.2 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.3} {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>13.2 Additional information:</p> <p>With the amendment of the <i>Environmental Impact Assessment Law</i> in April 2013, any projects in Japan that are subject to environmental-impact assessments under the law, must take into account of environmental sustainability at the planning phase with regard to the projects' location and scale.</p>	
13.3 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) from key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries that may affect wetlands? {1.3.4} {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Cases
<p>13.3 Additional information:</p> <p>Business operators in Japan conduct an environmental-impact assessment (including those on adjacent wetlands), before building any additional power plants or public infrastructure that exceeds a certain scale.</p>	

GOAL 4. Enhancing implementation

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

15.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i	A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
<p>15.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):</p> <p>*Japan is participating in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) and Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia, and is promoting the implementation of both entities. Japan has been paying contributions to EAAFP since FY2017.</p> <p>*In 2016-2017, Japan has made voluntary contributions to help set up a Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) in central Asia to assist the five central Asian countries to embark on wetland conservation.</p> <p>*Japan has also hosted the Asia Wetland Symposium (Resolution IX19), which is considered a quasi-Regional Initiative.</p>	

15.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}	A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
<p>15.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):</p> <p><Activities by Japan in 2017></p> <p>*Ecotourism Planning and Training for Environmental Administrators</p> <p>Provided a training program with the objective of enhancing capabilities necessary for developing a conservation plan or projects, including ecotourism, as a way to promote wise-use of the natural environment (including wetlands) surrounding the natural reserves. (Participating countries: Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Kosovo, Georgia, Vanuatu, Suriname and Gabon)</p> <p>*Integrated Lake Basin Management for Sustainable Use and Conservation of Water Resources</p> <p>Provided a training course, with the objective of teaching necessary concepts and skills on the appropriate management of lentic and lotic ecosystems, based on the Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM) framework. The training sessions were directed toward personnel who are expected to play a central role in conservation management for basins, such as lakes, rivers and coastal basins. (Participating nations: Albania, Iraq, India, Uganda, Egypt, Sudan, Mexico, Philippines and Myanmar)</p>	

Target 16. *Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness {4.1}.*

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<p>16.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i</p> <p>a) At the national level</p> <p>b) Sub-national level</p> <p>c) Catchment/basin level</p> <p>d) Local/site level</p> <p>(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)</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned</p> <p>a) A=Yes</p> <p>b) C=In Progress</p> <p>c) C=In Progress</p> <p>d) C=In Progress</p>

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

*As for a), *The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020* (approved by the Cabinet in September 2012) contains a national action plan for wetland CEPA. The Ministry of the Environment, the CEPA National Focal Point, is explicitly assigned with the task.

*As for b), comprehensive environmental plans and regional biodiversity strategies developed by the respective local governments apply.

*As for c), the *Action Plan for Promoting Awareness on Kushiro-Shitsugen Marsh's Nature Restoration* by a local council working group applies.

*As for d), the following plan established by each regional Nature Restoration Committee can be cited: the *Action Plan for Promoting Awareness on Kami-Sarobetsu Nature Restoration*, *Sekisei Lagoon Nature Restoration Master Plan*, *Grand Design for Nakaumi Nature Restoration*, and *Grand Design for Izu-numa and Uchi-numa Nature Restoration*.

Moreover, plans and/or rules for conservation and use, including those linked to CEPA, were formulated by the following prefectural and municipal governments: Sarobetsu-kenya, Yatsu-tidal flat, Sakata, Fujimae-tidal flat, Lake Furen, Lake Tofutsu, Hotoke Swamp, Kabukuri Swamp and the surrounding rice paddies, Kejo-numa, Yoshigadaira Wetlands, Onuma, Watarase-yusuichi, Lower Maruyama River and the surrounding rice paddies, Arao-tidal flat, Higashiyoka-tidal flat, Hizen Kashima-tidal flat.

<p>16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>E= # centres; F=Less than #; G=More than #; C= Partially; X=Unknown; y=Not Relevant;</p> <p>a) E=62 centres</p> <p>b) X=Unknown</p>
<p>16.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):</p>	

<p>16.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p> <p>a) C=Partially</p> <p>b) C=Partially</p>
<p>16.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p> <p>a) In Japan, many wetland administrative operations are driven by organized local stakeholders. For instance, many municipal governments involved in wetland management, provide occasions for local communities and stakeholders to participate in policymaking for conserving, and promoting the wise use, and management of wetlands.</p> <p>b) Getting local approval is one of the key requirements for Ramsar-Site designation in Japan. Thus, when designating a Ramsar Site, the local government conducts explanatory sessions to local stakeholders and the Ministry of the Environment holds public hearings on protected area designations for stakeholders.</p>	

<p>16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v</p>	<p>A=Yes</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>16.4 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP12; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>An equivalent organization in Japan is the <i>Liaison Conference for the Promotion of the Ramsar Convention</i>.</p> <p>a) Membership comprises of representatives of the respective relevant ministries (Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), local governments, and Wetland International Japan (non-governmental organization CEPA National Focal Point)</p> <p>b) Two meetings since the last COP</p> <p>c) Information exchange on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention</p>	
<p>16.5 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v</p>	<p>A=Yes</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>16.5 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP12; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>Meetings of municipal governments and non-governmental organizations that are involved in Ramsar Site management.</p> <p>a) Membership comprises of representatives of each relevant municipal governments and Wetland International Japan (NGO CEPA National Focal Point)</p> <p>b) Two meetings since the last COP</p> <p>c) Information sharing on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, exchange of opinions, site visits, etc.</p>	
<p>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:</p> <p>a) Ramsar Site managers</p> <p>b) other MEA national focal points</p> <p>c) other ministries, departments and agencies</p> <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p> <p>a) A=Yes</p> <p>b) A=Yes</p> <p>c) A=Yes</p>
<p>16.6 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>a) Sharing information with responsible persons of municipal governments and the local council focal point for the Convention. Information is also shared with other municipal governments, which are not members of the council, through the local offices of the Ministry of the Environment, as necessary.</p> <p>b) Japan's Ministry of the Environment regularly shares information and consults/coordinates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the diplomatic authority of Japan that also generally serves as the national focal point for other MEAs.</p> <p>c) Setting up a <i>Liaison Conference of the Relevant Ministries and Agencies for the Ramsar Convention</i> to share information and exchange opinions among the Ministry of the Environment,</p>	

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and NGOs about once a month, to drive implementation of Resolution X.31, with a view to enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems.

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}	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No

16.7 Additional information:
Various administrative agencies, private-sector entities and organizations have been organizing events on the World Wetland Day.

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

16.8 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):
Local administrative agencies, private-sector entities and local community centers have organized nature walks, lectures, wetland's product exhibitions and commemorative events that celebrate Ramsar-Site designation.

Target 17. Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available. {4.2.}

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17.1 a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2015, 2016 and 2017? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
b) If 'No' in 17.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:	

17.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No
17.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities): *Provided \$38,416 to the Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia (paid on March 3, 2017) *Provided \$25,000 to organize, and run, a workshop for launching the Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia (paid on October 19, 2015)	

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	<p style="text-align: center;">A=Yes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable</p>
<p>17.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP12): Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been implementing/planning wetland conservation projects in Malaysia, El Salvador, Uganda and Iran. (Project value between 2015-2017 totals to about 1.2 billion yen, including workshops for overseas participants). JICA is also involved in conservation efforts at peatlands, which are not yet designated as Ramsar Sites.</p>	
17.4 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii	<p style="text-align: center;">A=Yes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant; Z=Not Applicable</p>
<p>17.4 Additional information: JICA supports projects along the <i>Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations</i> (formulated in April 2010), in an effort to reflect sustainability and social-governance considerations at every phase of a project. JICA seeks to back appropriate projects that are friendly to the environment/society, and as such, conducts environmental-impact assessments and monitoring of projects from the project formulation, review, and implementation stages.</p>	
17.5 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}	<p style="text-align: center;">Z=Not Applicable</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable</p>
<p>17.5 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP12):</p>	
17.6 Has any financial support been provided by your country to the implementation of the Strategic Plan?	<p style="text-align: center;">A=Yes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable</p>
<p>17.6 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities): *Domestically, Japan has been implementing projects on invasive alien species eradication (Target 4), national wetland inventory update (Important Wetlands from the Viewpoint of Biodiversity; Target 8), RIS preparation and update (Target 8), and the Ramsar Convention's webpage and brochure renewal (Target 16). *Internationally, since 2017, Japan has been contributing to the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership, one of the regional initiatives. *Establishing a five-year Nagao Wetland Fund between Nagao Natural Environment Foundation and the Ramsar Secretariat in 2015, which seeks to support developing countries in Asian and Oceanian regions to implement projects linked to the strategic plan of the Convention.</p>	

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

<p>18.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.1} {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv</p>	<p>B=No</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>18.1 Additional information:</p>	
<p>18.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.2} {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv</p>	<p>C=Partially</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>18.2 Additional information:</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment (Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau), which is the Ramsar Administrative Authority of Japan, submits and shares information with focal points of agencies of the United Nations and other international bodies.</p>	
<p>18.3 Has your country received assistance from one or more UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO) or the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.ii.</p> <p>The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, WWF and Wildfowl & Wetland Trust (WWT).</p>	<p>B=No</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>18.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the agency (es) or IOP (s) and the type of assistance received):</p>	
<p>18.4 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}</p>	<p>A=Yes</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>18.4 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):</p> <p>*Putting twinning arrangements into practice between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Kushiro-Shitsugen Marsh and Hunter Estuary Wetlands (Australia); -Kiritappu-Marsh and Hunter Estuary Wetlands (Australia); -Akkeshi-ko and Bekambeushi-Marsh and Hunter Estuary Wetlands (Australia); -Yatsu-tidal flat and Boondall Wetlands (Australia); -Fujimae-tidal flat and wetlands in Geelong City (Australia) <p>*Japan hosted the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) East Asia Regional Meeting in an effort to support activities under the International Coral Reef Initiative, helping to assemble information on the coral reef conditions in East Asia.</p> <p>*Japan is actively involved in promoting the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership. Most recently, Higashiyoka-tidal flat joined the Flyway Site Network, representing the 33rd site in Japan. Under this partnership, Japan concluded the following sister site arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Kejo-numa and Junam Reservoir (the Republic of Korea); -Yatsu-tidal flat and Moreton Bay, Boondall wetlands (Australia); -Kushiro-Shitsugen Marsh, Akkeshi-ko and Bekambeushi-Marsh, and Kiritappu-Marsh and Hunter River Estuary Wetlands (Australia); 	

-Izumi and Suncheon Bay (Korea);
 -Fujimae-tidal flat and Swan Bay Tidal Flats
 *Wetland-related NGOs in Japan and the Republic of Korea have been exchanging information about wetland conservation activities in their respective countries, working in cooperation with the World Wetland Network, a gathering of grassroots NGOs that operate at wetlands around the world. At the 11th Japan-Korea NGO Wetland Forum – International Wetland NGO Workshop on September 2016, the Parties together reviewed a long-term wetland-conservation action plan.
 *Japan signed a partnership agreement between Kushiro International Wetland Centre, a Ramsar-Site conservation organization, and Sarawak Forestry Corporation, a wetland conservation organization in Malaysia, in the event of hosting the EAAFP 8th Meeting of the Partners in Kushiro, Japan.

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

18.5 Additional information:
 The Government of Japan has taken the following information disclosures with regard to wetlands:
 -*Important Wetlands from the Viewpoint of Biodiversity* on the Ministry of the Environment’s public website.
 -Information on coral reef ecosystem conservation, its status, and action plan on the Ministry of the Environment’s public website.
 -The results of the *National Survey on the Nature Environment and Monitoring Sites 1000*, which include wetland-related information, on the Japan Integrated Biodiversity Information System.
 -Ramsar Sites’ information via brochures and on the websites of the Ministry of the Environment and the Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities.
 -Information on wetland restoration projects, conducted under the *Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration* (such as Kushiro-Shitsugen Marsh, Sarobetsu-gena, and Izu-numa and Uchi-numa) via brochures and on the relevant Ministries’ websites.
 -General wetland information and wetland-related events on Wetland International Japan’s official website.
 -Introduction to wetlands via brochures and/or on the websites of local governments that are engaged in wetland management, and NPOs that are conducting conservation activities.

18.6 Has information about your country’s wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? {3.4.3} KRA 3.4.ii	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

18.6 Additional information:
 Japan has been submitting wetland information, such as new site designations and CEPA activity report, as appropriate.

18.7 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i	Z=Not Applicable
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable

18.7 Additional information:

18.8 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii	Y=Not Relevant
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; Y=Not Relevant
18.8 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):	

18.9 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
18.9 Additional information: *Japan has been actively participating in the EAAFP. *Japan has signed bilateral treaties and agreements on the protection of migratory water birds with the US, Australia, China and Russia. Under this framework, the countries exchange information and conduct joint research surveys on migratory bird conservation. Furthermore, Japan has been cooperating with the Republic of Korea to conserve migratory birds, based on the agreement, <i>Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection</i> . *Japan has also attended, as an observer, the Arctic Council and working groups on the <i>Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna</i> to discuss conservation of migratory birds that fly over the Arctic.	

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

COP13 REPORT	
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	C=Partially
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
19.1 Additional information: Japan provides trainings for site managers of the Flyway Site Network under the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership on the conservation of migratory bird and wetlands, and shares the information. The government collects feedbacks on each training session to improve its content.	
19.2 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes}.	C=Partially
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
19.2 Additional information: If you answer yes to the above please provide information on which mechanisms and materials	

Japan has incorporated lessons on wetlands and migratory birds into the educational programs of educational institutions in more than 40 municipalities. For example, these programs include classes on the wetland environment, wildlife surveys, observations, clean-ups, internships, and introducing Ramsar Sites in educational material.

<p>19.3 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP12? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>a) G=More than 5</p> <p>b) X=Unknown</p>
	<p>E=# opportunities; F=Less than #; G= More than #; C= Partially; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>19.3 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>a) *Hokkaido Ramsar Network aims to train wetland site managers, by holding lectures, workshops and excursions, at the time of its annual general meeting. In addition, it seeks to facilitate the exchange of skills linked to CEPA (communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) for children who live around Ramsar Sites, during children’s events.</p> <p>*The Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities holds seminars on the conservation, wise use, and CEPA of Ramsar Sites, in the event of the triennial and annual meetings of mayors and municipality directors.</p> <p>*The following Ramsar Sites conduct inspections on other Ramsar Sites, accept external trainees, train volunteer guides and workshops by local communities: Kiritappu-Marsh, Izu-numa and Uchi-numa, Sakata, Mikata Five Lakes, Lake Man, Tokai Valley/Spring-fed Mires, Lower Maruyama River and their surrounding rice paddies.</p> <p>b) *The Ministry of the Environment provides training seminars for Japanese site managers in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership’s Flyway Site Network. In 2017, it conducted training seminars for site managers in the western block of the Flyway Site Network.</p> <p>*NGOs linked to wetlands in Japan organize national and local-level meetings for site managers, in order to exchange opinions and share best practices on wetland management, as part of fulfilling the 10-year plan for managing rice paddies (the <i>Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade Action Plan</i>, based on the <i>Enhancing Biodiversity in Rice Paddies as Wetland Systems</i> (Resolution X.31)).</p>	

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

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

Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

***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. Contributes to Aichi Target 2*

Planning of National Targets	
Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018	

Additional information:

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

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

Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018	

Additional information:

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

Planning of National Targets	
Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018	

Additional information:

Target 4. *Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are*

prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment. Contributes to Aichi Target 9.

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018	

Additional information:

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 {2.1.}. Contributes to Aichi Target 6,11, 12.

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and	

Sustainable Development Goals

Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

Additional information:

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:

A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer

Resourcing:

A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer

National Targets (Text Answer):

Planned Activities (Text Answer):

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

Additional information:

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 {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i. Contributes to Aichi Targets 12, 14, 18, 19.

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:

A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer

Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018	

Additional information:

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018	

Additional information:

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018	

Additional information:

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they	

contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

Additional information:

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:

A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer

Resourcing:

A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer

National Targets (Text Answer):

Planned Activities (Text Answer):

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

Additional information:

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals		
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018		

Additional information:

GOAL 4. Enhancing implementation

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

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):		
Planned Activities (Text Answer):		
Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals		
Note: this field has to be completed when the full		

report is submitted in
January 2018

Additional information:

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

Planning of National Targets

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

Resourcing: A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer

National Targets (Text Answer):

Planned Activities (Text Answer):

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

Additional information:

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

Planning of National Targets

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

Resourcing: A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer

National Targets (Text Answer):

Planned Activities (Text Answer):

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

Additional information:

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

Planning of National Targets

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

Resourcing: A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer

National Targets (Text Answer):

Planned Activities (Text Answer):

Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018

Additional information:

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

Planning of National Targets

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

Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018	
Additional information:	

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

Guidance for filling in this section

1. Contracting Parties can opt to provide additional information specific to any or all of their designated Ramsar Sites.
2. The only indicator questions included in this section are those from Section 3 of the COP13 NRF which directly concern Ramsar Sites.
3. In some cases, to make them meaningful in the context of reporting on each Ramsar Site separately, some of these indicator questions and/or their answer options have been adjusted from their formulation in Section 3 of the COP13 NRF.
4. Please include information on only one site in each row. In the appropriate columns please add the name and official site number (from the [Ramsar Sites Information Service](#)).
5. For each 'indicator question', please select one answer from the legend.
6. A final column of this Annex is provided as a 'free text' box for the inclusion of any additional information concerning the Ramsar Site.

Name of Contracting Party: JAPAN

List of indicator questions:

- 5.7** Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
- 5.9** If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.
- 11.1** Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
- 11.3** Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
- 11.4** Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
- 16.3a** Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
- 16.6a** Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

Ramsar Site number	Ramsar Site name	5.7 ①	5.9 ①	11.1 ③	11.3 ④	11.4 ④	16.3a ①	16.6a ①	Any additional comments/information about the site
<i>Ex:1603</i>	<i>Lake White</i>	A - Yes	A - Yes	A - Yes	A - Yes	A - Yes	B - No	D - Planned	
205	<i>Kushiro-shitsugen</i>		B	A			A, B	A	
318	<i>Izu-numa and Uchi-numa</i>	A	A				A, B	A	
439	<i>Kutcharo-ko</i>	A	B	B			A	A	
539	<i>Utonai-ko</i>	B	B	B			B	A	
613	<i>Kiritappu-shitsugen</i>	B	B	A			A	A	
614	<i>Akkeshi-ko and Bekambeu shi-shitsugen</i>	B		C			A	A	
615	<i>Yatsu-higata</i>		A	A	B	B	A	A	
616	<i>Katano-kamoike</i>	A		A			A	A	
617	<i>Biwa-ko</i>	B	A	C	B	B	A, B	A	
820	<i>Sakata</i>	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
996	<i>Manko</i>	A	B	A	B	B	B	A	
1200	<i>Fujimae-Higata</i>	A	B	B			A, B	A	
1201	<i>Miyajima-numa</i>	A	A		A	A	A	A	
1540	<i>Akan-ko</i>		B				A	A	
1541	<i>Akiyoshida i Groundwater System</i>		A	B	B	B		A	
1542	<i>Furen-ko and Shunkunitai</i>	B	B	B			A	A	
1543	<i>Hotokenu ma</i>	A	B	B	Z	Z	A	A	
1544	<i>Imuta-ike</i>							A	
1545	<i>Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies</i>	A	A	C	A	A	A, B	A	
1546	<i>Keramashoto Coral Reef</i>	A	A					A	
1547	<i>Kuju Bogatsuru and</i>	A	B	A			A	A	

Ramsar Site number	Ramsar Site name	5.7 ①	5.9 ①	11.1 ③	11.3 ④	11.4 ④	16.3a ①	16.6a ①	Any additional comments/information about the site
	<i>Tadewara-shitsugen</i>								
1548	<i>Kushimoto Coral Communities</i>	A		A			A	A	
1549	<i>Mikata-goko</i>	A	A	A	A	A		A	
1550	<i>Nagura Amparu</i>	A	B	B				A	
1551	<i>Nakaumi</i>	A	A	C	B	B	A	A	
1552	<i>Notsukehanto and Notsukewan</i>	B	B	B				A	
1553	<i>Oku-Nikko-shitsugen</i>	B	B	B	Z	Z	B	A	
1554	<i>Oze</i>			B	B	B	B	A	
1555	<i>Sarobetsugenya</i>	B	B	B			A, B	A	
1556	<i>Shinji-ko</i>	A	A	C	B	B	A	A	
1557	<i>Tofutsu-ko</i>	A	A	A			A	A	
1558	<i>Uryunuma-shitsugen</i>	A	B	C			A	A	
1559	<i>Yakushima Nagatahama</i>	A	B	B			A	A	
1842	<i>Hyo-ko</i>	B	B	B			B	A	
1843	<i>Kejo-numa</i>	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	
1844	<i>Oyama Kami-ike and Shimo-ike</i>	A	A	B	B	B	A	A	
1845	<i>Streams in Kume-jima</i>							A	
2054	<i>Arao-higata</i>	A	A	A			A	A	
2055	<i>Lower Maruyama River and the surrounding rice paddies</i>	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
2056	<i>Miyajima</i>	B	B	B			A	A	
2057	<i>Nakaikemi-shicchi</i>	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
2058	<i>Onuma</i>	A	A		B	B	A	A	
2059	<i>Tateyama Midagahara and Dainichidaira</i>						A	A	

Ramsar Site number	Ramsar Site name	5.7 ①	5.9 ①	11.1 ③	11.3 ④	11.4 ④	16.3a ①	16.6a ①	Any additional comments/information about the site
2060	<i>Tokai Hilly Land Spring-fed Mires</i>	A	A	B	B	B	B	A	
2061	<i>Watarase-yusuichi</i>	A	A	C	C	C	A, B	A	
2062	<i>Yonahawan</i>							A	
2232	<i>Hinuma</i>			A			B	A	
2233	<i>Yoshigadaira Wetlands</i>	A		B	B	B		A	
2234	<i>Higashiyoka-higata</i>	A	B	A		Z	A	A	
2235	<i>Hizen Kashima-higata</i>	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	

① A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned

③ A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

④ A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; Z=No Management Plan