



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

**National Reports to be submitted to the 14th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Wuhan, China, 2021**

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 the Word form must be sent by email to nationalreports@ramsar.org, by 21 January 2021 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 (optional Section 4 of the National Report Format or on the Word form), the deadline is 24 January 2020.

Ramsar COP14 National Report Format (NRF)

Background information

1. The COP14 National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting (SC57) for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention.
2. The NRF is being issued by the Secretariat in 2019 to facilitate Contracting Parties' implementation planning and preparations for completing the Report. The deadline for submission of national targets is 24 January 2020 and the deadline for submission of completed National Reports is 21 January 2021 (final dates will be updated once the dates for COP14 are agreed).
3. This COP14 NRF closely follows that used for COP13, 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 COP13 NRF). It is also structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2016-2024 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP12 through Resolution XII.2.
4. This COP14 NRF includes 90 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 in accordance with Resolution XII.2.
5. As was the case for previous NRFs, the COP14 NRF 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.
6. 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

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention and are made publicly available on the Convention's website.
8. There are seven main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are:
 - i) to provide data and information on how, and to what extent, the Convention is being implemented;
 - ii) to provide tools for countries for their national planning;
 - iii) to capture lessons and experience to help Parties plan future action;
 - iv) to identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
 - v) to provide a means for Parties to account for their commitments under the Convention;

- vi) to 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) to provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. 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".
10. 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. As for COP13, the COP14 reports will be in an online national reporting system.
11. 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; and
 - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance);
 - 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 COP13 NRF indicators is anticipated for the CBD's post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The structure of the COP14 National Report Format

12. The COP14 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 90 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 2021 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 COP14 National Report Format

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

13. All Sections of the COP14 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention’s official languages (English, French, Spanish).
14. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is January 21st 2021. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP14.

15. The deadline for submission of national targets is by 24 January 2020.
16. 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.

17. To help Contracting Parties refer to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP13, for each appropriate indicator a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP13 NRF or previous NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
18. 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.
19. 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 in the National Report Format as the information is provided through the Ramsar Sites Data Base or the Work Plan of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (e.g. targets 6 and 14).
20. 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).

21. 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:	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):	<i>[Example text]</i> To have comprehensive inventory of all wetlands by 2021
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 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

[Example text] A comprehensive inventory of all wetlands

Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021

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 2021 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 COP14 National Reports Database as “No answer”.

22. 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 COP13 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided. In the online system there is an option to allow consultation with others.
23. After each session, **remember to save the file**. A recommended filename structure is: COP14NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP14NRFSpain13January 2021.doc
24. 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 2021. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice at (nationalreports@ramsar.org).
25. 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 COP14 National Report.**

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

National Report to Ramsar COP14

Section 1: Institutional information

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

Name of Contracting Party: 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: Fumiko Nakao, Director

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

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Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

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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

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

Name and title: Tomoko Ichikawa, Deputy Director

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

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

Name and title:	Emiko Nagakura, Senior Program Officer
Name of organisation:	Wetlands International Japan
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Email:	emiko_nagakura@wi-japan.org

Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

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

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

- 1) Promoting the conservation and restoration of wetlands, including Ramsar Sites, through monitoring, field and communal surveys/ research, and development of local wetland conservation and wetland utilization plans.
- 2) Revitalizing the economy, promoting tourism and improving local livelihoods via designating wetlands through the Ramsar Convention. Through conservation and restoration of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, efforts were made to control/prevent floods and other natural disasters, as well as to revitalize/maintain agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industries.
- 3) Progress in promoting and expanding designation of national protected areas, including wetlands, through coordination with local stakeholders, with the aim of facilitating wetland designation under the Ramsar Convention. In some cases, designation of wetlands triggered momentum toward further regional conservation efforts, as areas surrounding Ramsar Sites came to be considered as quasi-national parks.
- 4) Success in raising awareness via environmental education and nature experience at wetland sites, including Ramsar Sites, and nearby schools.
- 5) Contributing to the conservation and wise use of wetlands in Asia, including supporting the designation of a new Ramsar Site in Cambodia and wetland and facilitating waterfowl surveys in Vietnam.

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

- 1) Insufficient human, operational and financial resources for management of wetlands: Many municipalities face an aging population, and are hampered by fewer people involved in conservation and wise use of wetlands.
- 2) Challenges in implementing measures against the invasion of alien species, feeding damage and trampling by deer and other animals, deterioration of water quality, aridification and damages caused by stronger typhoons in some wetlands.
- 3) Difficulties in promoting the involvement of diverse local actors in conservation and wise use of wetlands as well as to build consensus in coordination with stakeholders in some wetlands.
- 4) Difficulties in reconciling the introduction of renewable energy systems with conservation efforts in some wetland areas, since the areas suitable for building renewable energy facility can be close to wetland habitats. In addition, habitat disturbance is occurring due to human activity, such as overuse of wetland through various leisure activities (fireworks, motor boats, etc).
- 5) Difficulties in realizing and raising awareness on the benefits associated with a Ramsar Site designation. This problem is compounded by the low visibility of the Ramsar Convention.

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

- 1) Raise awareness and interest in the Ramsar Convention and secure the necessary activity/human resources from local governments, NGOs, and similar bodies by creating tangible benefits for Ramsar Site designation.
- 2) Collaborate with relevant local governments/communities, NGOs, and experts to promote monitoring, research, preparation, and threat and challenge assessments, and provide updates of RIS databases on Ramsar Sites.
- 3) Designate and expand areas for designation under the Ramsar Convention with the aim of promoting local communities' wetland conservation efforts and secure community-wide cooperation and understanding.
- 4) Collaborate with relevant local governments, experts, and civil organizations 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 in international forums, thereby contributing to international wetland conservation efforts.

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

The issue of climate change is well recognized and prioritized in many countries. However, the importance of wetland conservation is not fully recognized. Wetlands are unique in that they involve historical and cultural legacies, in addition to serving their natural roles as irreplaceable habitats for migratory waterbirds among other functions. Further efforts should be made to mainstream the importance of wetlands to the public as the basis for healthy livelihoods, and to prioritize their conservation efforts.

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)

It would be ideal to have technical support programs and case studies in areas where government agencies face difficulties in addressing, in order to realize value from designating 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 (Strategic Plan 2011-2020). Wetland conservation is positioned as part of its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

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

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

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

*Japan's *Basic Plan on Ocean Policy* (approved by the Cabinet in May 2018) promotes the conservation of fragile ecosystems under various international frameworks, such as the SDGs, as one of the major pillars of policies linked to the oceans.

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

Although most members of various research institutes and councils are men, some research institutes and other organizations are actively encouraging women to apply for staff positions.

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

- J. 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 from the Cabinet Office, various departments within the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

*We also received inputs from the following 25 prefectural governments, 75 municipal governments and 12 non-governmental organizations linked to Japan's Ramsar Sites for this report (NGOs: Aquatic Life Conservation Society, BirdLife International Tokyo, Kushiro International Wetland Centre, Nakaikemi-Net, Nakaumi Waterbirds International Fund, Ramsar Center Japan, Ramsar Network Japan, The Nature Conservation Society of Japan, The Save Wajiro Tidal Flat Association, Wetlands International Japan, Wild Bird Society of Japan, and Yamashina Institute for Ornithology).

*We gathered comments from the public for input.

Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

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

Target 1. Wetland benefits are featured in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.

[Reference to Aichi Target 2]

1.1 Have wetland conservation and the identification of wetlands benefits been integrated into sustainable approaches to the following national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.3.2} {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i	
A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant	
a) National Policy or strategy for wetland management:	A
b) Poverty eradication strategies:	Y
c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans:	A
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans:	A
e) Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan:	A
f) National forest programmes:	A
g) National policies or measures on agriculture:	A
h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD:	A
i) National policies on energy and mining:	A
j) National policies on tourism:	A
k) National policies on urban development:	A
l) National policies on infrastructure:	A
m) National policies on industry:	B
n) National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i:	A
o) National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management:	A
p) National policies on wastewater management and water quality:	A

1.1 Additional information:

a) Japan's national wetland policy is mandated under the relevant sections of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2020 (approved by the Cabinet in September 2012).

c) Japan's river corridor improvement plan addresses issues related to wetlands that incorporate rivers.

In addition, Japan's *National Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2020* calls for an improvement in the water environment linked to rivers and wetlands.

d) Recognizing the importance of coral reef ecosystem services, the *Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reef Ecosystems in Japan 2016-2020* cites as focal areas measures against land-based sources of pressure, sustainable tourism, and building local community stakeholder partnerships for the conservation of coral reef ecosystems.

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 to manage coastal zones, such as ensuring the sustainability of diverse functions and resources of coastal areas, harmonizing their use and conservation, and considering the mutual interaction among water, sediment, 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, to improve and maintain overall biological diversity, the National Forest Plan mandates the conservation of forests, including valley forests, where unique organisms inhabit land and water ecosystems. The *Basic Plan for the Management and Operation of National Forests* stipulates that primeval natural forests and forests inhabited by rare wildlife are to be designated as protected forests, thereby coming under strict management and protection. Protected forests include wetlands and other associated areas which require consolidated protection and management.

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

g) *The Biodiversity Strategy of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries* (issued in February 2012 as a guideline to facilitate agriculture, forestry, and fishery practices that emphasizes biodiversity conservation) notes the importance of conserving biodiversity in wetlands, including 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.

h) Japan's national wetland policy is mandated under the relevant sections of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2020 (approved by the Cabinet in September 2012).

i) The *4th 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 *Basic Policies Toward Building and Promoting Tourism Industry* (approved by the Cabinet in March 2017) calls for the need to promote conservation and appropriate use of its abundant and valuable natural environment, including forests, rivers, lakes/reservoirs,

mountains, coasts, and coral reefs. The Plan also calls for the promotion of environmental education and nature experience activities at waterfronts, such as tidal flats.

k) Japan's *Basic Policy on Urban Renaissance* (approved by the Cabinet in July 2002) calls for the promotion of coexistence of cities with nature, and reduction of urban pressure on the environment. This will be achieved through securing a favorable environment for water, such as conserving biological diversity via restoring and establishing green spaces 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 centre to farmland and coastal areas.

n) Japan's *Basic Plan for Fisheries* prescribes the promotion of conservation and creation of seaweed beds and tidal flats and the promotion of the conservation and establishment of habitats and breeding environments for aquatic organisms in rivers.

o) The 4th *Basic Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society* (approved by the Cabinet in June 2018) prescribes further promotion of proper treatment and environmental restoration in the Section 2.4 of the Plan.

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

<p>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.</p>	<p>C=Partially</p>
<p>2.1 Additional information: There are dams in Japan that discharge water for the purpose of conserving the river environment downstream of the dams. Thus far, these measures have had some positive effects on improving water quality in backwater areas and river landscapes such as renewing algae growth and promoting the movement of fish along rivers.</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>

<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)</p>	<p>C=Partially A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>2.2 Additional information: *In nature restoration projects at some wetlands, such as Kushiro-shitsugen Marsh and Sarobetsu-genya Plain, efforts are underway to restore desirable groundwater levels and conserve/ restore the quality of influent streams based on analyses of current water environment conditions. *For the construction of roads and railroads that exceed a certain scale, business operators conduct an environmental impact assessment in advance, which includes assessing their impact on adjacent wetlands.</p>	
<p>2.3 What, if any, initiatives have been taken to improve the sustainability of water use (or allocation of water resources) in the context of ecosystem requirements across major river basins (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12)? (Action 3.4.6.)</p>	<p>C=Partially A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; O= No Change; X= Unknown</p>
<p>2.3 Additional information: * Ongoing conservation efforts over many years at Biwa-ko Lake, a valuable water source for approximately 14.5 million people in the Kinki region. These efforts include activities to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining clean sources of water. * Reintroduction of endangered storks through wetland conservation activities along the Maruyama River, which serves as the central water source for many wetlands, including rice paddies and human-made wetlands that are designated as Ramsar sites (situated in the Lower Maruyama River and the surrounding rice paddies). *In the Ramsar-designated Kabukuri-numa (pond) and the surrounding rice paddies, farmers have adopted a cultivation method that floods rice paddies after harvesting, even during the winter, in order to provide a place for birds such as geese and ducks to roost, feed, and rest. These serve as important habitats for various bird species and other organisms.</p>	
<p>2.4 Have projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands been developed (Action r3.4.ix.)</p>	<p>C=Partially A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>2.4 Additional information: In nature restoration projects at some wetlands such as Kushiro-shitsugen Marsh and Sarobetsu-genya Plain, efforts are underway to restore desirable groundwater levels and to conserve/restore the quality of influent streams, based on analyses of current water environment conditions (<i>Kushiro-Shitsugen Revitalization Plan</i>, Chapter 5, Section 4; <i>Upper Sarobetsu Revitalization Plan</i>, Chapter 4).</p>	
<p>2.5 Percentage of households linked to sewage system ? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.</p>	
<p>2.5 Additional information:</p>	

2.6 What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	E=79.3%
	E=# percent; F= Less than # percent; G= More Than # percent; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.6 Additional information:	

2.7 What is the percentage of users of septic tank/pit latrine if relevant to your country? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	E=4.08%
	E=# percent; F=Less Than # percent; G= More Than # percent; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.7 Additional information: Regular Japanese pit latrines are waterproof and do not leak sludge; sludge is periodically removed by a vacuum vehicle.	

2.8 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	C= Partially
	A= Yes, B= No; C= Partially, D=Planned X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.8 Additional information: Currently, participants from the private sector and universities are operating constructed wetlands for drainage treatment at animal husbandries in Hokkaido. Further research is being undertaken on constructed wetlands as a method to treat wastewater in a decentralized manner.	

2.9 Number of wastewater treatment plants (or volume treated exist at national level)? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	E=approx.2,200
	E= # plants; F= Less than #; G=More than #; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.9 Additional information:	

2.10 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants? If relevant to your country. SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	C=Functioning
	A=Good; B=Not Functioning; C=Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.10 Additional information: In Japan, efficient and appropriate wastewater treatment facilities are equipped in accordance with the respective capacities of each region, taking into account the efficiencies and properties of the respective wastewater treatment facilities, such as sewers, community sewage systems, and sewage treatment tanks, etc.	

2.11 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	9.3 %
	A=Good; B=Not Functioning C=Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.11 Additional information: Please note that the answer here should be provided in percentages, rather than a selection among A,B,C, etc. Japan's penetration rate of decentralized sewage treatment tank as of the end of fiscal year 2018 was 9.3% .	

2.12 Number of wastewater reuse systems (or volume re-used) and purpose? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	301
2.12 Additional information: *In some areas and buildings, non-drinking water, such as sewage-recycled water and rain water, is used for general purposes such as for flushing, landscaping, water sprinkling, car washing, and air conditioning, etc. *The Government of Japan is promoting the recycling of industrial wastewater. *With regard to wastewater and sludge at sewage plants from farming communities, the government is advancing reuse in agricultural water and land applications, respectively.	

2.13 What is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system if relevant to your country? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	R=Agriculture; S=Landscape; T=Industrial; U=Drinking; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
2.13 Additional information: Please indicate if the wastewater reuse system is for free or taxed or add any additional information. * In Japan, the main purposes of the waste water reuse system is for agricultural (R) and industrial (T) purposes. * Non-drinking water, such as sewage-recycled water and rain water, in some areas and buildings, is used for general purposes such as for washing, flushing, landscaping, water sprinkling, car washing, and air conditioning. *The Government of Japan is promoting the recycling of industrial wastewater. *With regard to wastewater and sludge at sewage plants from farming communities, the government is advancing reuse in agricultural water and land applications, respectively.	

2.14 Does your country use a wastewater treatment process that utilizes wetlands as a natural filter while preserving the wetland ecosystem?	X= Unknown
	A=Yes; B=No; X= Unknown;

2.14 Additional information: If Yes, please provide an example

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

<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>B=No A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>3.1 Additional information: Given Japan-specific circumstances, this guidance is not necessarily 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: a) Ramsar Sites b) Wetlands in general</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant a) C= Partially b) C= Partially</p>
<p>3.2 Additional information: The following activities are taking place in various parts of the private sector, encompassing private enterprises, NGOs, wetland centres, tourism industry associations, agricultural and fisheries cooperatives, and local wetland conservation associations. Many activities promote participation by local communities and are designed to promote conservation efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conservation activities and restoration projects: Conservation activities such as environmental management and protection of rare animals and plants, wetland restoration, cleanup, control of invasive alien species, and management of feeding damage by animals such as deer. ● Research: Monitoring and research activities ● Operation and maintenance of resource and visitor centres ● Environmental education and public-awareness activities: organizing events such as nature observation, wetlands tours, school education and learning activities, support for volunteer activities, research presentations and exchange of views, TV programming, leveraging wetland resources, and public-awareness on how not to disturb wildlife habitats. 	

3.3 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i	C= Partially
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

3.3 Additional information:
The following examples of initiatives and support programs have been implemented in Ramsar Sites in Japan:

- Generating positive environmental externalities from agricultural practices such as rice farming, including flooding rice paddies with water during winter, which facilitates the habitation and conservation of migratory birds and other rare wild fauna and flora. Rice harvested from those paddies command a higher price than the standard product.
- Branding and selling aquatic agricultural products and poultry (such as ducks) that meet certain criteria, such as using feed from Ramsar wetlands (reeds and seaweed, etc) and harvesting via traditional and sustainable fishing and hunting methods.
- Municipal governments certify agricultural products as their own local branded products, when they are produced with technologies that reduce the burden on the environment, such as reducing the use of pesticides/ chemical fertilizers and preventing the flow of muddy water. These products are marked with a branded logo.
- Adding value to crop harvested from Ramsar Sites by processing them into commercial products, such as rice wine and cosmetics products made from lotus roots. A portion of the sales profit is shared toward environmental conservation and educational activities.
- Supporting biodiversity conservation activities in wetlands through the government's biodiversity conservation subsidy program.
- Implementing agricultural subsidies directed toward sustainable farming practices that contribute to nature conservation, such as winter flooding of rice paddies.

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	Z=Not Applicable
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable

3.4 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.*
{Reference to Aichi Target 9}

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

4.1 Additional information:

Japan enacted the *Invasive Alien Species Act* (IAS Act) in June 2004; 148 invasive alien species were specified as damaging or threatening to the ecosystem and inventoried, as of August 2020. Furthermore, in March 2015, the Government of Japan compiled a list of invasive alien species that could cause damage to the Japanese ecosystem. These include many species that are dependent on wetlands for inhabitation and growth.

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

4.2 Additional information:

*To prevent damage to the ecosystem by invasive alien species, the Government of Japan has adopted the *Basic Policy for Preventing Adverse Effects on Ecosystems Caused by Invasive Alien Species*, based on the *Invasive Alien Species Act*. It also publicizes the control and removal details on the 99 invasive alien species that have been identified for extermination by the Government of Japan.

*Based on the above measures, the Government of Japan conducted a review on effective control methods against invasive alien species in FY2020, and has worked to establish locally-driven extermination and control systems at the Ramsar Sites of Kushiro-shitsugen Marsh, Izu-numa and Uchi-numa Lakes and Biwa-ko Lake.

*Local stakeholders in wetlands such as Utonai-ko Lake have been actively involved in implementing extermination measures of invasive alien species.

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

A=Yes

A=Yes; B=No;
X= Unknown

4.3. Additional information: (If 'Yes', please provide examples, including the species name and the successful management actions)

* The Government of Japan, through multifunctional agricultural subsidies, has been driving extermination of alien species such as *Myriophyllum aquaticum* in water channels, and *Trachemys scripta* at reservoirs that connect to rice paddies.

**Spartina alterniflora*, which is listed as an invasive alien species, has been detected in three regions of Japan. One of the regions has successfully eradicated it by mowing, dredging, reclaiming by concrete, and covering it with shading sheets when the colony was still in the early stages.

*The government has been focused on removing *Elodea nuttallii* in Oku-Nikko-shitsugen (Oku-Nikko High Moor) since 1998, leading to a gradual decline in its distribution. *Sicyos angulatus*, an invasive alien species observed in Sakata Lake, was successfully eradicated due to sustained removal efforts. Many other municipalities that have Ramsar Sites are working actively toward eradicating invasive species.

4.4 Are there invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems that have not been successfully controlled through management actions?	A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; X= Unknown
<p>4.4 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please provide examples, including the species name and the challenges to management)</p> <p>Ecological risks from Black Bass, <i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>, and other invasive alien fish species are very high, but it is difficult to eradicate them once they have settled into large lakes or stream systems.</p> <p>In several marshlands in Hokkaido, <i>Procyon lotor</i> have been observed, leading to concern regarding the impact of predation on native species.</p> <p>Some species such as <i>Trachemys scripta</i> and <i>Procambarus clarkii</i> are widely distributed domestically, as some of them are kept as pets by many people. Designating these species as invasive alien species may lead to a further spread of these species outdoors, owing to abandonment. These concerns have led to difficulties in taking measures based on the <i>Invasive Alien Species Act</i>.</p> <p>Some species such as <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> and <i>Solidago altissima</i> are prone to expanding their distribution via wind or from seeds sticking to the soles of peoples' shoes. In such cases, the timing of extermination needs careful examination, and some municipalities are facing difficulties eradicating them.</p>	

4.5 Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?	C=Partially A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
<p>4.5 Additional information:</p> <p>The Government of Japan has been verifying the effectiveness of its invasive alien species extermination projects in some wetlands, and has been reviewing their effectiveness, and identifying challenges and potential solutions.</p>	

Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

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

Target 5. The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective, planning and integrated management {2.1.}
[Reference to Aichi Targets 6,11, 12]

5.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List</i> ? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
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5.1 Additional information:

*The Government of Japan developed a list of potential candidate Ramsar Sites that satisfy the criteria of Wetlands of International Importance in 2010.

*On the basis of *the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020* (approved by the Cabinet in September 2012), the Government of Japan promotes the designation and expansion of Ramsar Sites, regarding those wetlands where local communities can promptly follow up on conservation efforts upon their designation based on strong constituency support.

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 methodologies.	

5.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a formal management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	E=52 E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.4 Of the Ramsar Sites with a formal management plan, for how many of these is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i	E=52 E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.5 Of the Ramsar sites without a formal management plan, for how many is there effective management planning currently being implemented through other relevant means e.g. through existing actions for appropriate wetland management? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	Y=Not Relevant E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

5.3 – 5.5 Additional information:

*In Japan, wetlands that are being designated as Ramsar sites are usually previously designated as one of the following: national parks, quasi-national parks, national wildlife protection area, or natural habitat protection area. When these designations are made, the government drafts plans that include conservation and management of wetlands in natural parks, designation plans for wildlife protection areas and/or guidelines for protection in natural habitat protection areas.

*In addition to the above, there are some regions that have drafted and implemented their own nature restoration 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 utilization of the natural environment, including wetlands.

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with either a formal management plan) or management via other relevant means where they exist e.g through existing actions for appropriate wetland management ? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii	C=Partially A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
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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 to be reviewed, or when the management plans of wildlife protection areas are to be amended.

*Similarly, there are some wetland management plans, formulated by prefectural and municipal governments and local councils, that undergo periodic reviews to assess their effectiveness and to identify any issues.

5.7 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.4} {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	G=More than 37 sites E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X=Unknown, Y=Not Relevant;
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5.7 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

* Wetland-restoration conferences are held at the following wetland sites in Japan: 205 Kushiro-shitsugen, 1555 Sarobetsu-genya, 318 Izu-numa and Uchi-numa, 1549 Mikata-goko, 1551 Nakaumi. In addition, wetland conservation councils and committees are established at the following wetlands: 439 Kutcharo-ko, 539 Utonai-ko, 996 Manko, 1201 Miyajima-numa, 1540 Akan-ko, 1557 Tofutsu-ko, 1558 Uryunuma-shitsugen, 1542 Furen-ko and Shunkuni-tai, 2058 Onuma, 1543 Hotokenuma, 1844 Oyama Kami-ike and Shimo-ike, 820 Sakata, 2232 Hinuma, 616 Katano-kamoike, 1545 Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies, 1554 Oze, 1556 Shinji-ko, 1843 Kejo-numa, 2061 Watarase-yusuichi, 2233 Yoshigadaira Wetlands, 2060 Tokai Hilly Land Spring-fed Mires, 1200 Fujimae-higata, 2057 Nakaikemi-shicchi, 2055 Lower Maruyama River and the surrounding rice paddies, 1548 Kushimoto Coral Communities, 2234 Higashiyoka-higata, 2235 Hizen Kashima-higata, 2054 Arao-higata, 1547 Kuju Bogatsuru and Tadewara-shitsugen, 1559 Yakushima Nagata-hama, 1550 Nagura Amparu, and 2357 Kasai Marine Park.

*In addition to municipal councils, cross-regional organizations, such as Hokkaido Ramsar Network and Kushiro International Wetland Centre, manage a combination of several Ramsar Sites. There are also regional organizations that oversee a part of Ramsar Sites on a cross-cutting, municipal basis (e.g. Akanoi-wan bay-restoration project).

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

7.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i	A=Yes 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 the Ministry's Headquarters' wildlife division (the Administrative Authority) on any such changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites. Furthermore, the country's Biodiversity Center is to report on monitoring and survey results of wetlands including non-Ramsar Sites (including lakes, reservoirs, tidal flats, and coral reefs) to the Ministry Headquarters.	
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, such as 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):	

Goal 3. Wisely using all wetlands

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

Target 8. National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

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

8.1 Does your country have a complete National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned
8.1 Additional information: In 2001, the Government of Japan published the "500 Important Wetlands in Japan," which were selected from a perspective of biological diversity conservation. Since then, the government has conducted another review, based on expert guidance, leading to an updated publication called "Important Wetlands from the Perspective of Biodiversity," released in 2016.	

8.2 Has your country updated a National Wetland Inventory in the last decade?	<p style="text-align: center;">A=Yes</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; C1= Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>8.2 Additional information:</p> <p>* In 2001, the Government of Japan published the “500 Important Wetlands in Japan,” which were selected from a perspective of biological diversity conservation. Since then, the government has conducted another review, based on expert guidance, leading to an updated publication called “Important Wetlands from the Perspective of Biodiversity,” released in 2016.</p> <p>*The government continues to monitor tidal flats, eelgrass beds, seaweed beds, and seabird breeding sites, among other habitats, at the Pacific coast area in the north-east Tohoku region, which had been affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. Records are maintained to determine whether any changes in the ecosystem have occurred.</p> <p>*Of the potential candidate Ramsar Sites, published by the Ministry of the Environment in 2010, the government conducted surveys on seven potential candidate sites affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, compiling its findings in a report.</p>	
8.3 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	<p style="text-align: center;">A=Yes</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>8.3 Additional information:</p> <p>With regard to some important wetlands, the Government of Japan conducts surveys and collect information as part of its national surveys on the natural environment.</p>	
8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	<p style="text-align: center;">A=Yes</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>8.4 Additional information:</p> <p>They are accessible to the general public via a website.</p>	
<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</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;">N=Status Deteriorated; O=No Change; P=Status Improved</p> <p>a) O=No Change b) O=No Change</p>

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

*No major changes in the ecological character of the wetlands have been observed over the last three years, albeit there has been a *decrease* in native fauna and flora, an expansion in the distribution of invasive species, and continued trampling/grazing by deers observed at some sites.

These findings are based on the Ministry of the Environment's monitoring surveys of wetlands, including Ramsar Sites which encompass lakes, reservoirs, marshland, secondary water environments, rocky shores, tidal flats, eelgrass beds, seaweed bed and coral reefs.

*According to questionnaires on prefectural governments, municipalities and NGOs, some wetlands have exhibited sediment inflow and deposition, aridification, water environment degradation, changes in biota, and coral bleach. On the other hand, some wetlands have either maintained or showed positive changes in the natural environment and diversification of biota from conservation and restoration efforts.

8.6 Based upon the National Wetland Inventory if available please provide a figure in square kilometres for the extent of wetlands (according to the Ramsar definition) for the year 2020 and provide the relevant disaggregated information in the box below. This Information will also be used to report on SDG 6, Target 6.6, Indicator 6.6.1, for which the Ramsar Convention is a co-custodian.	E=1,546 km ²
	E= # Km ² ;; G=More than # Km ² ; X= Unknown

8.6

According to the Ramsar definition and classification of wetlands, the disaggregated information on wetland extent is as follows:

Area by type of wetland				Total area by category of wetland
Marine/Coastal	e.g Coral Reefs: xx Km ²	e.g Estuarine waters xx Km ²	e.g Coastal brackish/saline lagoons:	
Inland	e.g Permanent freshwater marshes/swamps: xx Km ²	e.g Non-forested peatlands (includes shrub or open bogs, swamps, fens): xx Km ²	e.g Permanent freshwater lakes: xx Km ²	
Human-made				
Total				1,546 Km ²
Date of the inventory:				
Reference or link:				

Note:

The minimum information that should be provided is the total area of wetlands for each of the three major categories; “marine/coastal”, “inland” and “human-made”.

If the data on inventories are partial or not complete, use the information that is available. Guidance on information on national wetland extent, to be provided in Target 8 “National Wetlands Inventory” of the National Report Form can be consulted at:

<https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidance-on-information-on-national-wetland-extent>

Additional information: If the information is available please indicate the % of change in the extent of wetlands over the last three years. Please note: For the % of change in the extent of wetlands, if the period of data covers more than three years, provide the available information, and indicate the period of the change.

With regard to Ramsar sites in Japan, 2 wetlands were newly designated and one site was expanded in 2018. This has resulted in a 4.5% increase in the area of Ramsar Sites in Japan from the last triennium, to 1,546.96 km² (totaling 52 sites).

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

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

<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>
<p>9.1 Additional information:</p> <p>* Japan's national wetland policy is outlined in the relevant sections of the <i>National Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2020</i> (approved by the Cabinet in September 2012). In this Strategy, the country calls for the promotion of conservation and the wise use of wetlands that leverages the climate and culture of each Ramsar Site, and support building strategies for the conservation and wise use of Ramsar Sites and to publicize relevant case studies.</p> <p>*The Ministry of the Environment has launched a project titled "Connecting and Supporting Forests, Villages, Rivers and the Sea" to promote safe and prosperous nation-building, while ensuring future benefits can be derived for the community from forests, villages, rivers, the sea and wetlands. The government established 10 model regions for the project between FY2016 and FY2018, building a platform comprised of diverse entities to help develop a self-sustaining economic architecture. The government supported holding a national symposium on this issue and to draft/publish a guide on the regional circular economy and ecological sphere. In FY2019, it conducted a follow-up study on these model regional projects, which was used to update the guide and to add case studies/ best practices.</p>	
<p>9.2 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.5}{1.3.6}</p>	<p>B=No</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned</p>
<p>9.2 Additional information:</p>	
<p>9.3 Are wetlands treated as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {1.7.1} {1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii</p>	<p>A=Yes</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned</p>
<p>9.3 Additional information:</p> <p>*Matters concerning wetlands, including rivers, are addressed under the water resources management section of river corridor improvement plans.</p> <p>*Irrigation water for rice paddies serves as an essential water infrastructure for water-resources management in neighbouring areas, while also contributing to creation of landscapes and ecosystem conservation.</p>	
<p>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}</p>	<p>A=Yes</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned</p>

9.4 Additional information:

*The promotion of environmental education is incorporated in most of the implementation plans, based on the *Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration* 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-higata Tidal Flat, Sakata Lake, Fujimae-higata Tidal Flat, Tofutsu-ko Brackish Lake, Kabukuri-numa Pond and the surrounding rice paddies, Kejo-numa Lake, Onuma Lake, Miyajima-numa Lake, Watarase-yusuichi Retarding Basin, Yoshigadaira Wetlands, Arao-higata Tidal Flat, Hizen Kashima-higata Tidal Flat, Higashiyoka-higata 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
9.5 Additional information: * <i>The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020</i> (approved by the Cabinet in September 2012) includes an objective to contribute to the adaptation and mitigation of climate change by raising biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems and their storage capacity for carbon dioxide via conserving and restoring ecosystems, including wetlands. * <i>The National Spatial Planning Act</i> (approved by the Cabinet in August 2015), in the section on infrastructure projects and land use, upholds the promotion of green infrastructure that actively leverages nature's diverse functions, such as controlling increases in temperature. *In June 2019, the Cabinet approved the country's <i>Long-term Strategy under the Paris Agreement</i> . By promoting the conservation and restoration of ecosystems such as soils as well as wetlands and coastal areas, the strategy seeks to increase the CO2 absorption capacity of healthy ecosystems and realize the potential of conserving / restoring seagrass beds with aquatic plants that serve as sinks for CO2 absorption.	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
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	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

9.6 Additional information:

Japan has implemented direct payments to support environmentally friendly agricultural practices, subsidizing additional costs associated with the implementation of agricultural production activities that contribute to the conservation of the natural environment. Agricultural production methods that take into account of conserving wetland ecosystems (seen in rice paddies) are among the activities that are also eligible for support.

*To facilitate the implementation of Ramsar Resolution X.31, stakeholders led by a non-profit organization drafted the *Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade Action Plan 2013*, leading to sustained interactions among farming communities on a local and nationwide basis.

* The *National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020* cites an objective to promote the balance between biodiversity conservation and sustainable farming production, so that agricultural production can be maintained, while managing the base conditions.

*Some municipal governments have issued ordinance and/or implemented plans, projects, experiments that encourage farming that account for biodiversity in wetlands, with some directly subsidizing these efforts.

<p>9.7 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) agriculture-wetland interactions b) climate change c) valuation of ecosystem services <p>{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned</p>
	<p>a) A=Yes b) A=Yes c) A=Yes</p>

9.7 Additional information:

*With regard to a), farmers, citizens and researchers in Japan regularly conduct *the Survey on Living Creatures in Rice Paddies*. According to a non-profit organization’s research results, 5,668 species have been found in rice paddies. These organizations enhance their understanding from survey results shared by NGOs in the Republic of Korea.

Furthermore, in FY 2014, the Ministry of the Environment assessed the economic value of moors and tidal flats in Japan, building up a knowledge base on agriculture and wetlands, centred around rice paddies inhabited by migratory birds and rare species, such as in Kabukuri-numa Pond and the surrounding rice paddies (Greater White-fronted Goose), Sado Island (Japanese Crested Ibis), and Lower Maruyama River and the surrounding rice paddies (Oriental Stork).

*With regard to b):

-Based on its Anatidae survey report of FY2008-2012 (published in March2015), the Japanese Ministry of the Environment has found that climate change was one of the drivers for changes in the wintering distribution of Greater White-fronted Goose and swans.

-Research institutions (such as universities) are undertaking research on green infrastructure and ecosystem-based disaster-risk reduction methods, to address growing concerns about disaster risks induced by climate change. Such research is funded by the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund, a competitive research fund sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment.

-Through the Regional Adaptation Consortium Project conducted from 2017 to 2019, the Japanese government conducted an evaluation of the Eco-DRR function of wetlands and a study of the impact of climate change on wetland and other ecosystems.

*With regard to c), the Ministry of the Environment, in 2014, evaluated the economic value of moors and tidal flats in Japan and published estimates. It followed up its studies in 2016, compiling the *Japan Biodiversity Outlook 2* which includes an assessment of ecosystem services from wetlands. Furthermore, the Ministry of the Environment leverages its Environment Research and Technology Development Fund (a competitive source of funds for research) to develop an evaluation system 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 being conducted by prefectural governments, municipalities and non-governmental organizations that are linked to the Ramsar Sites.

9.8 Has your country submitted a request for Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention, Resolution XII.10 ?	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

9.8 Additional information: (If ‘Yes’, please indicate How many request have been submitted):
Two applications.

9.9 Has your country made efforts to conserve small wetlands in line with Resolution XIII. 21?	C=Partially
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

9.9 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate what actions have been implemented):
The government conducted various activities to promote public awareness (such as surveys, reed-cutting, conservation activities by wetlands education centers), wise use of wetland resources, and observation of plants unique to wetlands at Ramsar Sites such as Katano-kamoike Pond and Tokai Hilly Land Spring-fed Mires.

Municipalities, local communities, civil organizations and schools have also conducted research and conservation activities in small wetlands that have not been designated as Ramsar sites.

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

<p>10.1 Have case studies, participation in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands been compiled. Resolution VIII.19 and Resolution IX.21? (Action 6.1.6)</p>	<p>A=Yes A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned</p>
<p>10.1 Additional information: (If yes please indicate the case studies or projects documenting information and experiences concerning culture and wetlands). *Wetlands 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, <i>33 Examples of the Cultures and Technologies of Wetlands in Japan --- Relationships with Local People and Communities</i>.</p> <p>Six cities and four towns around the Watarase-yusuichi Retarding Basin collaborated to select 100 ecological network points in the basin to promote wise use of wetlands, compatible with the creation of an attractive local community and the conservation of the natural environment.</p> <p>*Prefectural/municipal governments and private sector entities linked to Ramsar Sites have been compiling the following information on wetlands and associated local and traditional culture and livelihood, disseminating the information via various mediums (brochure, information centres, websites, digital museums, educational materials, DVDs, etc).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food related to wetlands • Origins and local history of the wetland (regional studies) and knowledge regarding flood control methods • Traditional fishing/ hunting methods and fishing gear: traditional fishing methods for Hokkai shrimp, eel and fresh water clams, ice fishing (the traditional fishing method of catching fish by cutting a hole in the ice and casting a net inside), laver culture, Saka-ami duck-hunting (traditional method to avoid overhunting and disturbing the habitat of ducks), traditional boat fishing and related songs • Surveys on the cultural landscape of communities around the wetlands • Role of shrines and other local institutions in relation to conservation of wetlands and related festivals • Archaeological sites adjacent to/ within the wetland area • Wetland legends • Traditional wetland use and technologies and past photographs 	

<p>10.2 Have the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands been used or applied such as</p> <p>a) stakeholders, including local communities and indigenous people are represented on National Ramsar Committees or similar bodies</p> <p>b) involvement and assistance of indigenous people's and community-based groups, wetland education centres and non-governmental organizations with the necessary expertise to facilitate the establishment of participatory approaches;</p> <p>(Resolution VII. 8) (Action 6.1.5)</p>	<p>a) A=Yes b) A=Yes</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned</p>
<p>10.2 Additional information: (If the answer is "yes" please indicate the use or application of the guidelines)</p> <p>*With regard to a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Liaison Conference for the Promotion of the Ramsar Convention</i> includes the respective representatives from municipalities of Ramsar Sites. 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 civilians and stakeholders to participate in the policymaking process for conservation, wise use and management of wetlands in Japan. <p>*<u>With regard to b)</u>: Several wetlands (including Ramsar Sites) in Japan are supported by local constituents such as wetland centers and NGOs with the necessary knowledge and experience. Activities include inviting participation of civic volunteers and organizing public events and training courses for wetland guides.</p>	

<p>10.3 Traditional knowledge and management practices relevant for the wise use of wetlands have been documented and their application encouraged (Action 6.1.2)</p>	<p>A=Yes</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned</p>
<p>10.3 Additional information:</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>*For example, prefectural/municipal governments and private sector entities, linked to Ramsar Sites, have compiled information on wetlands and the local traditional culture and livelihood/skills, disseminating the information via various mediums (brochure, information centres, website, educational materials, DVDs).</p>	

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1, 2, 13, 14]

<p>11.1 Have ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands been researched in your country, recorded in documents like State of the Environment reporting, and the results promoted? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii</p>	<p>C1=Partially 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 wetlands and their names): Japan evaluated the economic value of moors and tidal flats in 2013 and published its results on a website. In recent years, the following efforts have been made to further promote an understanding of ecosystem services, including those from wetlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of climate change on wetland ecosystems and adaptation measures were assessed through the Regional Adaptation Consortium Project. The results were compiled and published on the Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (A-PLAT) as an outcome report. • The Ministry of the Environment periodically invites submissions of research proposals with regard to themes that the Ministry of the Environment deems as necessary in solving an environmental problem. These include research and development of technologies related to the sustainable use of ecosystem services and identifying appropriate social systems required to maintain those services. The adopted themes are implemented using the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund, a competitive source of funding that contributes to the development of environmental policies. • Instructions (a trial version) for evaluating and calculating the value of ecosystem services carried out by enterprises through their biodiversity conservation activities were developed in 2019, to facilitate understanding about how these activities link to ecosystem services and impact society. 	
<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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>11.2 Additional information:</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	C=Partially A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<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 management plans for the respective Ramsar Sites.</p> <p>*While not an official management plan, the grand design document for nature restoration for Kushiro-shitsugen Marsh, Mikata-goko Lakes and Nakaumi Brackish Lake has incorporated the socio-economic values of wetlands in their respective conceptual frameworks.</p>	

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19)? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii	C=Partially 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>*While not an official management plan, the grand design document for nature restoration for Kushiro-shitsugen Marsh, Mikata-goko Lakes and Nakaumi Brackish Lake has incorporated the cultural values of wetlands in their respective conceptual frameworks.</p> <p>*The cultural value of wetlands designated as historical sites, places of scenic beauty, natural monuments and important cultural landscapes which includes terraced rice paddies, waterfront areas and river basins, are described in their respective conservation and utilization plans.</p> <p>*Some prefectural and municipal governments included cultural values of wetlands in their management plans for the respective 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.}
[Reference to Aichi Targets 14 and 15].

12.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i	C=Partially 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 constituents, including relevant administrative agencies, municipal 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 facilitating the development of river corridors, based on its river corridor improvement plans.</p> <p>* Many regions in Japan are implementing wetland restoration projects, such as dirt excavation, waterweed restoration, setting up of buffer zones, creating breeding environments for birds, invasive alien species extermination, and cleanup activities.</p> <p>* The government has been monitoring and conducting research on the status of tidal flat recovery In wetlands like Manko Tidal Flat and Sekisei Lagoon, in order to review the effectiveness of wetland rehabilitation projects implemented thus far.</p> <p>*Some wetlands, which are not Ramsar Sites, have expanded their areas through acquisitions of surrounding lands.</p>	

12.3 Have the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands and on Peatlands, climate change and wise use (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.11) been implemented including?	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
a) Knowledge of global resources	X=Unknown
b) Education and public awareness on peatlands	X=Unknown
c) Policy and legislative instruments	X=Unknown
d) Wise use of peatlands	X=Unknown
e) Research networks, regional centres of expertise, and institutional capacity	X=Unknown
f) International cooperation	X=Unknown
g) Implementation and support	X=Unknown
<p>12.3 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, the progress in implementation)</p> <p>While not based on specific guidelines (including the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands), Japan conducts promotional events and facilitate wise use of peatlands at several Ramsar sites.</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. [Reference to Aichi Targets 6 and 7].

13.1 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.3} {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii	C=Partially A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
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13.1 Additional information:

With the amendment of the *Environmental Impact Assessment Law* in April 2013, any projects in Japan, that are subject to environmental-impact assessments under the law, must take into account environmental considerations at the planning phase when issues such as projects' location and scale are being determined.

13.2 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) from key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries that may affect wetlands? {1.3.4} {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Cases

13.2 Additional information:

Business operators in Japan conduct an environmental-impact assessment (including those on adjacent wetlands), before building any new and additional power plants or public infrastructure that exceed a certain scale.

Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

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

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

15.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i	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 joined the Finance Sub-Committee of EAAFP and has been paying contributions to EAAFP since FY2017. Additionally, Japan is a member of the RRC-EA Steering Committee.</p> <p>*In 2016-2017, Japan has made voluntary contributions toward a workshop to help set up a Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) in central Asia by five central Asian countries.</p> <p>*Japan has also hosted the Asian 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

15.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

<Activities by Japan in 2019>

***Ecotourism Planning and Training for Environmental Administrators**

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) at nature reserves and surrounding areas was provided.

(Organizer: Kushiro International Wetland Centre, Participating countries: Ukraine, Vietnam, Gabon, Kiribati, Serbia, Palau, Philippines and Myanmar)

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 18].

<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 b) Sub-national level c) Catchment/basin level 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 b) C=In Progress c) C=In Progress d) C=In Progress</p>
<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):</p> <p>*As for a), <i>The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020</i> (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, has been explicitly assigned to this task.</p> <p>*As for b), some local governments incorporate CEPA in their respective comprehensive environmental plans and local biodiversity strategies.</p> <p>*As for c), the <i>Action Plan for Promoting Awareness on Kushiro-Shitsugen Marsh's Nature Restoration</i> by a local council's awareness-raising working group explicitly addresses CEPA. Knowledge and tools about CEPA have been incorporated into the planning and management of catchment areas such as rivers in Niigata City (Niigata Prefecture) and Kashima City (Saga Prefecture).</p> <p>*As for d), the following plans established by each local Nature Restoration Committee can be cited as having incorporated CEPA: <i>Action Plan for Promoting Awareness on Kami-Sarobetsu Nature Restoration, Sekisei Lagoon Nature Restoration Master Plan, Grand Design for Nakaumi Nature Restoration, Grand Design for Izu-numa and Uchi-numa Nature Restoration (2nd period), and Grand Design for Mikata-goko.</i></p> <p>Moreover, plans and/or rules for conservation and use, including those linked to CEPA, were formulated by the following prefectural and municipal governments: Akan-ko Lake, Izu-numa and Uchi-numa Lakes, Yatsu-higata Tidal Flat, Sakata Lake, Kabukuri-numa Pond and the surrounding rice paddies, Watarase-yusuichi Retarding Basin, Nakaikemi-shicchi Wetland, Biwa-ko Lake, Lower Maruyama River and the surrounding rice paddies, Arao-higata Tidal Flat, Hizen Kashima-higata Tidal Flat, Higashiyoka-higata Tidal Flat and Manko Tidal Flat.</p>	

<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=81</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? {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 municipal governments that are involved in wetland management establish organisations such as the promotion council, management and operation council, and committee for conservation and wise use. These provide occasions for local communities and stakeholders to participate in policymaking linked to conserving, promoting the wise use, and management of wetlands.</p> <p>b) Getting local agreement is one of the key requirements for Ramsar-Site designation in Japan. Thus, when designating a Ramsar Site, the municipal 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 COP13; 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, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), relevant local governments, and Wetlands International Japan (CEPA NGO National Focal Point).</p> <p>b) Two meetings since COP13</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 COP13; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has): Municipal governments and non-governmental organizations that are involved in Ramsar Site management periodically hold meetings. a) Membership to this body comprises of representatives of each relevant municipal governments and Wetlands International Japan (CEPA NGO National Focal Point). As of 2020, 70 municipalities were registered as members. b) Two meetings since COP13 c) Information sharing on issues such as the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, exchange of opinions and site visits.</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: a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p> <p>a) A=Yes b) A=Yes c) A=Yes</p>
<p>16.6 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please describe what mechanisms are in place): a) Sharing information with responsible persons in municipal governments through the domestic Ramsar Committee for relevant municipalities. Information is also shared with other municipal governments, which are currently not members of this committee, through the local offices of the Ministry of the Environment, as necessary. 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. c) Establishing a <i>Liaison Conference of the Relevant Ministries and Agencies for the Ramsar Convention</i> to regularly share information and exchange views among the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and NGOs, to drive implementation of Ramsar Resolution X.31, with a view to enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems.</p>	
<p>16.7 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP13? {4.1.8}</p>	<p>A=Yes</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No</p>
<p>16.7 Additional information: Various administrative agencies, private-sector entities, and organizations have been organizing events on the World Wetlands Day.</p>	

<p>16.8 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP13 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}</p>	<p>A=Yes</p>
<p>16.8 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):</p> <p>*Many municipalities with Ramsar Sites hold lectures and symposiums to introduce scientific information on wetlands, the importance of the conservation of wetlands, and to exchange opinions on issues.</p> <p>*Local administrative agencies, private-sector entities, wetland centres, local groups, volunteer groups, etc., hold nature walks to communicate the appeal of wetlands and plants and animals in wetlands, events to commemorate the designation, events related to fishing and food culture, environmental education programs to learn the importance and fun of wetlands, cleanup activities, product exhibitions of wetlands, etc., publish newsletters, and call for rules to conserve wetlands.</p> <p>*The Tokyo Metropolitan Government, which manages the Kasai Marine Park, a Ramsar Site, organized an exhibition on wetlands and products from wetlands in a particularly busy station in Tokyo, with the participation of some Ramsar Sites.</p> <p>*From April to July every year since 2010, around the International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22), local governments and NGOs around Japan have held 40 to 50 events, including nature walks, learning sessions, and symposiums. These events are participants in the Green Wave of the Japan Committee for United Nations Decade of Biodiversity as part of a “Wetlands Green Wave”.</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned</p>

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

<p>17.1 a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2018, 2019 and 2020? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i</p>	<p>A=Yes</p>
<p>b) If ‘No’ in 17.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable</p>

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
<p>17.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities): *Provided \$29,571 to the Ramsar Advisory Mission to Papua New Guinea (paid in February 2018). Provided Japan's expertise on water pollution control measures in Lake Kutubu. The project has not been closed as of end-2020.</p> <p>* The Government of Japan also funds a wide range of wetland projects as the largest donor to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). (Within GEF-7, \$15 million worth of wetland projects have been approved by Council as of end-2020, of which Japan contributes about 19%).</p>	
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	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
<p>17.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP12): The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been implementing wetland conservation projects in Albania, El Salvador, Iran, Myanmar and among others. Several other sites (such as Mauritius) are in the early investigation/ planning stage.</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	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant; Z=Not Applicable
<p>17.4 Additional information: JICA supports projects following the <i>Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations</i> (formulated in April 2010), in an effort to reflect sustainability and social-governance considerations in 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}	Z=Not Applicable
	A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
<p>17.5 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP13):</p>	
17.6 Has any financial support been provided by your country to the implementation of the Strategic Plan?	A=Yes
	A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable

17.6 Additional information (If “Yes” please state the amounts, and for which activities):

*Domestically, Japan has been implementing projects on eradicating invasive alien species (Target 4), preparing and updating RIS (Target 8), and renewing the Ramsar Convention’s webpage and brochure (Target 16).

*Internationally, since 2017, Japan has been continuously contributing to the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership, one of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives (Target 15). Japan provided support to Cambodia for the designation of Ramsar Sites and to Vietnam for waterbird research activities (Target 18).

*The Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund provided financial support for the project "Improving Biodiversity Conservation of Wetlands and Migratory Waterbirds," which aims to conserve migratory birds and their habitats in the ASEAN region.

*With the approval of the Ramsar Standing Committee, a five-year Nagao Wetland Fund (NWF) was established in 2015 between the Nagao Natural Environment Foundation and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat for supporting projects related to the Convention's Strategic Plan in developing countries in Asia and Oceania. In FY2019, the NWF supported research and awareness raising activities for conservation of wetlands in three countries, including the Philippines. In FY2020, the Foundation stopped accepting applications for the fund under consideration of the safety in the pandemic situation of the new coronavirus. The Foundation and the Secretariat agreed to extend the term of the MOU for one year from the end of April 2021.

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 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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>18.2 Additional information: 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. 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>*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 coral reef conditions in East Asia.</p> <p>*Japan is actively involved in promoting the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership with 33 sites joining the Flyway Site Network in Japan. These sites, as appropriate, participate in one or more national networks to exchange information, with regard to Anatidae, Crane, and Shorebird.</p> <p>*Japan has the sister site arrangements including: -Yatsu-higata Tidal Flat and Moreton Bay, Boondall wetlands (Australia); -Kushiro-shitsugen Marsh, Akkeshi-ko Lake and Bekambeushi-shitsugen Wetlands, Kiritappu-shitsugen Wetlands and Hunter Estuary Wetlands (Australia); -Fujimae-higata Tidal Flat and Swan Bay wetlands in Geelong City (Australia). Mutual site visits are among the activities implemented. -A partnership agreement has been signed between Kushiro International Wetland Centre (KIWC), a conservation organization for Ramsar Sites, and Sarawak Forestry Corporation, a wetland conservation organization in Malaysia.</p> <p>*In addition to the sister site arrangement, youth exchange activities were held between Manko Tidal Flat (Tomigusuku City) and Gandu Nature Park (Taiwan), as well as between Maruyama River (Toyooka City), Nakaumi Brackish Lake (Yonago City) and Hwapocheon wetland (Gyeongsangnam-do, Korea).</p> <p>*Wetland-related NGOs in Japan and the Republic of Korea have been exchanging information on wetland conservation activities in their respective countries, working in cooperation with the World Wetland Network, a gathering of grassroots NGOs that operate at wetlands in the world.</p> <p>* The Hokkaido Ramsar Network has been organized, with the aim of promoting awareness about conservation and wise use of Ramsar Sites in Hokkaido. Projects such as information dissemination and proposals on wise use of wetlands are being implemented.</p>	

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	<p>A=Yes</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>18.5 Additional information:</p> <p>The Government of Japan discloses the following information on wetlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Important Wetlands from the Viewpoint of Biodiversity</i> 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 <i>National Survey on the Natural Environment and Monitoring Sites 1000</i>, which include wetland-related information, on the Japan Integrated Biodiversity Information System. - Information on the respective Ramsar Sites via brochures and websites of the Ministry of the Environment and the Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities. The websites have been redesigned for use on smart phones. - Information on wetland restoration projects, conducted under the <i>Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration</i> (such as Kushiro-shitsugen Marsh, Sarobetsu-genya Plain, and Izu-numa and Uchi-numa Lakes) via brochures and on the relevant Ministries' websites. - General wetland information and wetland-related events on Wetlands International Japan's official website. - Local governments that are involved in wetland management and NGOs engaged in conservation activities have introduced the topic of wetlands through their websites, public relations magazines, pamphlets, social networking services, TV commercials and other TV programming such as subway vision (TV in the subway) and street TV. 	
18.6 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i	<p>Z=Not Applicable</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable</p>
18.6 Additional information:	
18.7 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii	<p>Y=Not Relevant</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; Y=Not Relevant</p>
18.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):	

18.8 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
<p>18.8 Additional information:</p> <p>*Japan has been actively participating in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership.</p> <p>*Japan has signed bilateral conventions and agreements on the protection of migratory birds with the US, Australia, China and Russia. Under this framework, the participating 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>.</p> <p>*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 the conservation of migratory birds that fly over the Arctic.</p>	

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 17]

19.1 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii	C=Partially A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>19.1 Additional information:</p> <p>19.1 追加情報 :</p> <p>*Japan provides trainings for site managers of the Flyway Site Network under the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership on the conservation of migratory waterbird and wetlands, and shares the information. The government collects feedbacks on each training session to improve its content.</p> <p>*Some municipalities with Ramsar Sites are also considering the possibility of holding training on local level, and implementing training for staff and volunteers, as well as visits to advanced case studies.</p>	

19.2 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes?	C=Partially A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>19.2 Additional information: If you answer yes to the above please provide information on which mechanisms and materials:</p> <p>*More than 51 municipal/ prefectural governments have incorporated the topic of wetlands and migratory birds into the curricula of their educational institutions. For example, the curriculum typically includes the topics of wetlands, results from surveys, observations of wetland creatures, conservation activities such as cleanup and reed cutting, fishing experience, work experience. Ramsar Sites are also introduced in teaching materials (supplementary reading books and program books).</p> <p>*Some wetland centres dispatch staff members to schools to conduct lessons on wetlands. Some municipalities support the use of their buses to assist site visits, so that students can actually visit and learn about Ramsar Sites through their classes.</p>	

<p>19.3 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP13? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>a) G= More than 136 b) X= Unknown</p> <p>E=# opportunities; F=Less than #; G= More than #; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
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19.3 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):

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 for children who live around Ramsar Sites and experiencing nature by actually visiting sites, during children’s events.

*The Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities holds seminars on the conservation, wise use, and CEPA of Ramsar Sites, during the events of the triennial mayors’ meeting and annual meetings of municipality directors.

*The following Ramsar Sites conduct inspections on other Ramsar Sites, accept external trainees, train volunteer guides and conduct workshops by local communities: Sakata Lake, Lower Maruyama River and surrounding rice paddies, Higashiyoka-higata Tidal Flat, Hinuma Lake, Tofutsu-ko Brackish Lake, Arao-higata Tidal Flat, Watarase-yusuichi Retarding Basin, Oyama Kami-ike and Shimo-ike Lakes, Yatsu-higata Tidal Flat, Yakushima Nagata-hama Beach, Hizen Kashima-higata Tidal Flat, Kushiro-shitsugen Marsh and Oze Wetland.

b) *The Ministry of the Environment provides training seminars for Japanese site managers in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership’s Flyway Network Sites. In 2019, it conducted a training seminar for site managers in the Hokkaido block of the Flyway Site Network. After 2021, a preparatory meeting for a domestic network-based monitoring study is scheduled to be held with the theme of understanding trends in migration using the Flyway Site Network and monitoring at participating sites.

*NGOs linked to wetlands in Japan organize national and local-level meetings for site managers to exchange opinions and share best practices on wetland management as part of fulfilling the 10 year plan for managing rice paddies (the *Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade Action Plan*, based on the Ramsar Resolution X.31 *Enhancing Biodiversity in Rice Paddies as Wetland Systems*).

<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>
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19.4 Additional information (If ‘Yes’, please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

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

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 COP14 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 COP14 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:

- 5.6** Has the Ramsar Site been assessed regarding the effectiveness of its management (i.e. sites with either a formal management plan) or management via other relevant means where they exist e.g through existing actions for appropriate wetland management ?
- 5.7** Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
- 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 including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19)?
- 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	5.6 ③	5.7 ①	11.1 ③	11.3 ④	11.4 ④	16.3a ①	16.6a ①	Any additional comments/information about the site
Ex:1603	Lake White	A - Yes	A - Yes	A - Yes	A - Yes	A - Yes	B - No	D - Planned	
205	Kushiro-shitsugen	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	

Ramsar Site number	Ramsar Site name	5.6 ③	5.7 ①	11.1 ③	11.3 ④	11.4 ④	16.3a ①	16.6a ①	Any additional comments/information about the site
318	Izu-numa and Uchi-numa	A	A	B	B	B	A	A	
439	Kutcharo-ko	B	A	B	B	B	A	A	
539	Utonai-ko	B	A	B	B	B	B	A	
613	Kiritappu-shitsugen	A	B	A	B	B	A	A	
614	Akkeshi-ko and Bekambeu shi-shitsugen	A	B	A	B	B	A	A	
615	Yatsu-higata	A	B	A	B	B	A	A	
616	Katano-kamoike	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
617	Biwa-ko	A	B	C	B	B	A	A	
820	Sakata	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
996	Manko	B	A	B	B	B	B	A	
1200	Fujimae-Higata	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
1201	Miyajima-numa	A	A		A	A	A	A	
1540	Akan-ko	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
1541	Akiyoshida i Groundwater System	A	B	B	B	B	A	A	
1542	Furen-ko and Shunkunitai	A	A	B	B	B	A	A	
1543	Hotokenu ma	C	A	B	B	B	A	A	
1544	Imuta-ike	A	B	B	B	B	B	A	
1545	Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies	A	A	C	A	A	A	A	
1546	Keramasho to Coral Reef	B	B					A	
1547	Kuju Bogatsuru and Tadewara-shitsugen	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
1548	Kushimoto Coral		A	A			A	A	

Ramsar Site number	Ramsar Site name	5.6 ③	5.7 ①	11.1 ③	11.3 ④	11.4 ④	16.3a ①	16.6a ①	Any additional comments/information about the site
	Communities								
1549	Mikata-goko	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
1550	Nagura Amparu	D	A	A			A	A	
1551	Nakaumi	A	A	C	B	B	A	A	
1552	Notsukehanto and Notsukewan	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	
1553	Oku-Nikko-shitsugen	A	B	B	B	B	B	A	
1554	Oze	A	A	B	B	B	B	A	
1555	Sarobetsugenya	C	A	B	B	B	A	A	
1556	Shinji-ko	A	A	C	B	B	A	A	
1557	Tofutsu-ko	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
1558	Uryunuma-shitsugen	B	A	C			A	A	
1559	Yakushima Nagatahama	A	A	B	B	B	A	A	
1842	Hyo-ko	A	B	B	B	B	B	A	
1843	Kejo-numa	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	
1844	Oyama Kami-ike and Shimo-ike	A	A	B	B	B	A	A	
1845	Streams in Kume-jima							A	
2054	Arao-higata	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
2055	Lower Maruyama River and the surrounding rice paddies	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
2056	Miyajima	B	B	B	C	C	A	A	
2057	Nakaikemishicchi	A	A	B	A	A	B	A	
2058	Onuma	A	A		B	B	A	A	
2059	Tateyama Midagahara and Dainichidaira						A	A	
2060	Tokai Hilly Land	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	

Ramsar Site number	Ramsar Site name	5.6 ③	5.7 ①	11.1 ③	11.3 ④	11.4 ④	16.3a ①	16.6a ①	Any additional comments/information about the site
	Spring-fed Mires								
2061	Watarase-yusuichi	A	A	C	C	C	A	A	
2062	Yonahawan							A	
2232	Hinuma	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	
2233	Yoshigadaira Wetlands		A	B	B	B		A	
2234	Higashiyokahigata	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
2235	Hizen Kashimahigata	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
2357	Kasai Marine Park	A	A	B	B	B	A	A	
2358	Shizugawan	A			B	B		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