

# Ramsar National Report to COP14

## Section 1: Institutional Information

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

Name of Contracting Party

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

> PL Administrative Authority letter National Report COP 14

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[PL Administrative Authority letter National Report COP 14.pdf](#)

### Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority

> General Directorate for Environmental Protection

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

[GDOŚ](#)

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

> Andrzej Szweda-Lewandowski, General Director of Environmental Protection

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### Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title

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

Name and title

> National Focal Point - Wetlands Committee

Name of organisation

> General Directorate for Environmental Protection

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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

> National Focal Point

Name of organisation

> General Directorate for Environmental Protection

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

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

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

- 1)
  - › Wetlands Committee establishment and maintainance
- 2)
  - › Maintaining of the unspoilt ecological status of Ramsar Sites and progress in the designation of the transboundary Ramsar site – Peatlands of Iżera River
- 3)
  - › Increasing awareness of climate change consequences and degradation of biodiversity resulting in the implementation of water management and biodiversity policy
- 4)
  - › Active educational actions, an increasing number of visitors to the Ramsar Sites, particularly the areas with national park status. Maintaining of the periodic events for the World Wetlands Day
- 5)
  - › Numerous projects of active conservation and educational and promotional projects in the Ramsar sites and other wetlands, through the financing of the environmental protection through national, EU and foreign funds

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

- 1)
  - › Gaps in the coherence of the provisions contained in international conventions, EU directives and national law
- 2)
  - › Imperfections of the spacial planning system, which would protect wetlands from intensified anthropogenic pressure
- 3)
  - › Conflicts of interest between management of wetlands and their conservation (especially in context of climate change adaptation and mitigation)
- 4)
  - › Too low social awareness on the role of wetlands in the environment and in the human life (constituting an impediment in efficient nature protection, in particular on private land, and creates problems with the enforcement of conservation plans and plans of conservation tasks)
- 5)
  - › Water drainage practices on private lands causing droughts and fires

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

- 1)
  - › Update national inventory in the wetland in Poland for good serving the policy and financial instruments of wetlands protection
- 2)
  - › Work toward law protection all peat soil and on financial incentives for wetlands protection
- 3)
  - › Continuation of the works on the supplementation of the list of Ramsar sites, with the inclusion of the Red List of Ramsar Sites in Poland and types of ecosystems with insufficient representation in the Ramsar Convention (in Poland: peatlands, alluvial meadows)
- 4)
  - › Intensification of the educational, promotional and informational activities, in particular on the role and value of wetlands (informational trainings and meetings, organisation of meetings with local societies, exhibitions at

local government units, in particular near valuable wetlands)

5)

> Intensification of the cooperation between the Administrative Authority, Wetlands Committee, the managing entities and interested Parties in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention

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

> no

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

> no

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

> Cooperation and possible undertaking of joint activities should be based on periodic interministerial meetings, allowing for the exchange of experience and undertaking initiatives. Such meetings should take place at least once every six months, with the participation of the entities dealing with widely understood nature protection and the environments of the national and local government administration.

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?

> National Strategy on Wetlands Protection is needed to link different sectors of economy and policies. The development of national strategies must take into account the role of wetland areas, thus it is indispensable that experts specialized in biology, ecology, hydrology and restoration of wetlands participate in the development of such documentation. The experts shall also participate in the committees controlling the development/updating such strategies.

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.

> Poland leads the policy of equality of gender in wetlands-related decisions, programmes and projects carried out.

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

> no

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

> Ministry of Infrastructure  
Ministry of Climate and Environment  
Ministry Of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Białystok  
Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk  
Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Kraków  
Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Lublin  
Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Łódź  
Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Olsztyn  
Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Poznań  
Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Szczecin  
Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Wrocław  
Biebrzański National Park  
Góry Stołowe National Park  
Kampinoski National Park  
Karkonosze National Park  
Narwiański National Park  
Poleski National Park  
Słowiński National Park  
Tatrzański National Park

Ujście Warty National Park  
Woliński National Park  
Stawy Milickie S.A.  
Forest District Nowy Targ  
Directorate of the Lower Silesia Landscape Parks  
General Directorate for Environmental Protection  
General Directorate of the State Forests  
State Water Holding Polish Waters  
National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management  
Institute of Environmental Protection - National Research Institute  
Institute of Geodesy and Cartography  
Institute of Nature Conservation Polish Scientific Academy  
Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation (IUNG)  
Institute of Technology and Life Sciences (ITP)  
University of Warsaw - Faculty of Biology  
The University of Wrocław, Faculty of Biological Sciences  
University in Poznań - Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences, Climate Change Ecology Research Unit (CCERU)  
Centre of Wetlands Protection  
Naturalist's Club  
Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP)  
WWF Poland

## Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

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

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

#### Target 1

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

[Reference to Aichi Target 2]

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

1.3.i

Please select only one per square.

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

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

## 1.1 Additional information

> a) National Strategy on Wetlands Protection is planned to be elaborated in 2021 and established around 2022.

e) Projects of maritime spatial plans are currently elaborated by the directors of maritime offices.

f) One of the objectives of the National Forestry Policy is the increase in water retention in the forests. The Nature Conservation and Environmental Impact Assessment programs for forest management plans include "near-natural preservation and restoration of mid-forest reservoirs and natural watercourses", "protection of natural retention facilities such as peatlands, water reservoirs, springs, swamps", "preservation of intact forest wasteland such as marshlands, swamps, bogs, peatlands, together with their flora and fauna to protect the entire biodiversity ". In the plans of forest management, these objects remain without economic guidelines.

g) In the applicable Strategy for the sustainable rural, agricultural and fisheries development for the period 2012-2020 (SZRWRiR) the intervention direction 5.1.3 has been developed "Rational use of water resources for the needs of agriculture and fisheries and increase of the water retention". Following the provisions of the strategy, the increase of water retention should be carried out in the first place through the use of natural ecological processes, such as water retention in peatlands, pools, increase of retention through maintenance of year-round vegetation cover etc. At the same time, the program further assumes e.g. construction or renovation of the water drainage devices used for retention or regulation of water levels, construction or renovation of gravitational irrigation systems, renovation of water drainage devices to adjust them to gravitational irrigations and construction or renovation of water supply and drainage devices within the systems of water drainage devices, which may harm wetlands. A similar approach is expressed in the Strategy for Responsible Development towards the issue of water management on agricultural areas. The issues

concerning the protection of wetlands have been included in the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020

h) Action C.II.1. Of the National Programme for the Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use and the Action plan for the period 2015-2020: "Development and introduction of programmes for protection and restoration of degraded habitats, in particular wetlands, in the protected areas" assumes development and introduction of protection programs for threatened habitats, which should be primarily directed at the areas with a vital function in the ecological structure of the region or the local water circulation system.

n) The Strategic plan for the development of fish farming and breeding in Poland for the period 2014-2020 has been developed. It includes two industry documents, one on the carp fish industry (traditional aquaculture), whereas the second one provides guidelines for the development of sustainable intensive aquaculture (Strategy Karp 2020; Development of Sustainable Intensive Aquaculture 2020) and the programme document: Multi-annual National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture. The main objectives of extensive aquaculture are: maintaining the existing production area of ponds and its sustainable use, increasing the profitability of pond farms and strengthening and promoting the pro-environmental and pro-social role of carp industry.

p) This function is partially performed by the National Urban Wastewater Treatment Programme and its subsequent updates.

## Target 2

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

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

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

C=Partially

### 2.1 Additional Information

> The quantity and quality of water available and required by wetlands to maintain their ecological functions are estimated for some wetland areas that are protected areas at the development stage of management plans. In the case of investments, the implementation of which may threaten the allocation of water resources in wetlands, minimization guidelines for this impact are developed.

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

C=Partially

### 2.2 Additional Information

> Regional Water Management Boards have developed conditions for the use of waters from water regions in the form of Regional Water Management Board Director regulations, which determined the values of environmental flows (inviolable). These works are continued.

There are ongoing works to develop a methodology for estimating environmental flows in Poland which is to take in directly into account the water requirements of wetlands in the part related to overbank flows. The operational implementation of the method is planned for 2021.

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

C=Partially

### 2.3 Additional Information

> Projects have been implemented in some Ramsar sites, which resulted in improved water conditions in the ecosystems. Some of these projects are under implementation.

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. )

C=Partially

### 2.4 Additional Information

> The principles specified in Poland in the guidelines concerning the allocation and management of water resources to maintain the ecological functions of wetlands are respected with regards to wetlands of international importance.

## 2.5 Percentage of households linked to sewage system?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

> 74.5

### 2.5 Additional Information

> In 2019 the length of the sewage network in Poland reached 165100km, with the number of connections to buildings almost 3.5 million. Compared to 2018, the length of the constructed or reconstructed sewage network increased by 4400. km, ie by 2.8%, with a simultaneous increase in the number of connections by over 104000. pcs, i.e. by 3.1%. 59.3% of the sewage network and 45.9% of the number of connections were situated in rural areas. Compared to 2018, the length of the network in rural areas increased by 3100 km (by 3.3%) and the number of connections was 64 300 pcs (by 4.2%). In the same period, more than 1300 km of the network (increase by 2.0%) and almost 40000 pcs of connections (increase by 2.2%).

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

E=Exact number (percentage)

> 51.2

### 2.6 Additional Information

> At the end of 2019, the percentage of residential buildings connected to the sewage network was 51.2% and compared to 2018 It was higher by 0.6 pp. In cities, 74.7% of residential buildings were connected to the sewage system, while in rural areas - 37.2%.

Source: Statistics Poland 2019

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

F=Less than (percentage)

> 24

### 2.7 Additional Information

> The number of septic tanks decreased from about 2,163 thousand in 2018 up to 2,146,000 in 2019 (by 0.8%), while the number of home sewage treatment plants increased from approximately 257 thousand. In 2018 to approximately 279 thousand in 2019 (by 8.7%). Most (almost 87%) of household sewage disposal systems at the end of 2019 were located in rural areas - over 86% of the total number of septic tanks and over 92% of the total number of home sewage treatment plants.

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

X=Unknown

### 2.8 Additional Information

> Lacking information at the national level on household water treatment plants, including hydrophyte treatment plants. Location of hydrophyte treatment plants is adapted to local conditions. They are common of demonstrative character as educational and promotional activities - e.g. the Head Office building of the Ramsar site Poleski National Park is equipped with a hydrophyte treatment plant. The Institute for Technology and Life Sciences develops sewage treatment plant projects which are later implemented by local governments, individuals, companies.

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

E=Exact number (plants)

> 2454

### 2.9 Additional Information

> According to Statistics Poland 2020.

## 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

## 2.10 Additional Information

> According to the fifth update of the National Urban Wastewater Treatment Programme, 1587 agglomerations have been located in Poland. In 2016 1089 agglomerations possessed sewage treatment plants with the capacity sufficient to provide service to those agglomerations. 1444 agglomerations attained wastewater treatment efficiency guaranteeing the fulfilment of the national provisions in the field of quality of treated sewage.

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

X=Unknown

## 2.11 Additional Information

> -

2.12 Number of wastewater reuse systems (or volume re-used) and purpose?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

> 2

## 2.12 Additional Information

> - agriculture

- industry

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

T=Industrial

## 2.13 Additional Information

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

> Purified sewage is used exclusively for the own purposes of sewage treatment plants under the name of process water, meeting sanitary and hygienic requirements under the Regulation of the Minister of the Environment of 18 November 2014 on conditions to be met when introducing sewage into waters or the ground, and on substances which are particularly harmful to the aquatic environment (Journal of Laws 2014, item 1800). It is used to rinse filtration equipment, watering vegetation and for the fire protection purposes. Sewage sludge from some sewage treatment plants is used in agriculture, for land reclamation, for growing crops intended for the production of compost and thermal processing, under the Regulation of the Minister of the Environment on municipal sewage sludge (Journal of Laws 2015, item 257).

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

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]

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

KRA 1.10.i

C=Partially

## 3.1 Additional Information

> Representatives of the private sector are usually invited to participate in the planning of protection and the implementation of conservation tasks (for instance Natura 2000 sites) and are encouraged to participate in the projects. However, recommendations of the Ramsar Convention usually are not directly applied in the activities of this sector.

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

*Please select only one per square.*

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

### 3.2 Additional information

> Both in Ramsar sites as well as on wetlands in general, private sector undertakes conservation actions. Mainly organisations acting through targeted grants - subsidies from environmental protection funds or through volunteering activities, implementing projects related to their restoration, active and passive protection as well as monitoring and research activities. The engagement and motivation of other private land users into protection and wise use of wetlands take place, among others, through supporting instruments within the framework of the Rural Development Program thanks to which farmers receive compensation for less profitable use of wetlands that is favourable for the habitats. Furthermore, the private sector is involved in the implementation of conservation tasks in the Ramsar protected sites and other wetland areas in national parks through leasing the land managed by the State Treasury. In most cases, tenants carry out mowing of meadows and marshes, also with the use of subsidies as part of the agri-environment-climate measure. Private users also implement conservation tasks and plans for conservation tasks in protected areas other than mowing, as contractors of a public contract financed by the administration of these areas.

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

A=Yes

### 3.3 Additional information

> The farmers and fish breeders have the possibility to obtain subsidies for pro-environmental activities. Farmers may apply for agri-environment-climate payments within Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which totally or partially compensate for the farmers' lost income and for the additional costs they incurred. The implementation of the requirements under the agri-environment-climate measure translates into proper management of wet meadows and litter meadows, saline pastures, peatlands and the habitats of wetland birds. The support in the field of aquatic and environmental actions has also been envisaged within the Functional Program "Fisheries and the Sea" for the period 2014-2020. The subsidies and system mechanisms supporting natural water retention in agriculture is under designation and will be implemented in 2022.

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

A=Yes

### 3.4 Additional Information

> The subsidies and system mechanisms supporting natural water retention in agriculture is under designation and will be implemented in 2022.

Subsidies for the task "Investments in Natura 2000 areas" from the Rural Development Program have been modified and no longer encourage farmers to purchase equipment harmful to use in wet meadows (eg roller, excavator).

Nevertheless according to Art. 188 of the Act of 20 July 2017 the Water Law (i.e. Journal of Laws of 2017, item 1566) "maintenance of water structures is the obligation of their owners and rely on the operation, maintenance and repairs to preserve their function". Based on this provision, owners and users of land on which drainage ditches are located, are obliged to regularly clear them: mowing vegetation and cut trees and shrubs from slopes and bottoms of ditches, clear them from sediments and remove obstructions. This obligation refers to all drainage structures, including ditches, regardless of the needs for their maintenance and influence on the environmental conditions, also on the protected areas. This is often linked to the harmful impact on wetland areas and contributes to the acceleration of the outflow of waters from areas of considerable importance for water retention.

## Target 4

Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and

implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.  
{Reference to Aichi Target 9}

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

C=Partially

#### 4.1 Additional information

> There has been not arranged national inventory dedicated to the occurrence of all invasive species found on wetland areas. Nevertheless, General Directorate for Environmental Protection applied for funds in for Integrated Project in LIFE mechanism to create the network of early warning of alien invasive species in Poland in 2021-2030 (approx. budget 33 mln Euro). Actions needed for protected habitats in Natura 2000 sites will be carried out based on the Prioritried Action Framework.

Within the framework of the POIS.02.04.00-00-0100/16-00, a project entitled "Development of the rules for the control of invasive alien species with pilot actions and social education", a task will be implemented consisting in determination of the invasiveness degree for 118 alien species occurring in Poland, including 49 species from the EU list. The analysis will be based on existing data, including data and inventory results listed above, and will determine the degree of invasiveness based on the results from the responses to the procedure Harmonia+ for every species (including the impact of the species on nature).

An internet website - barszcz.edu.pl - devoted to the giant hogweeds (*Heracleum Sosnowskyi* and *H. mantegazzianum*) posing threat primarily to wetlands, is conducted and regularly updated. It contains the database for their occurrence in Poland. Furthermore, a book entitled "Inwazyjne gatunki roślin ekosystemów mokradłowych Polski" ("Invasive plant species of Poland's wetland ecosystems" has been published (Naturalists' Club, 2012). A detailed inventory (mapping) of the invasive species is being done selectively, particularly on certain protected areas (including national parks with Ramsar site status: Wigry, Narew, Słowiński, Karkonosze and selected species in the Biebrza National Park). The indices of habitat and species Natura 2000 monitoring - including wetland habitats - conducted within the framework of the State Environment Monitoring Programme, include i.a. alien invasive plant species. The data can be used to estimate threats for wetlands, yet not at a national level, because of the lacking coherent database.

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

D=Planned

#### 4.2 Additional information

> National Strategy on Wetlands will analyze in 2021 the problem of the invasive alien species. Combat with invasive alien species is enrolled in the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 as a result of data reporting from art. 17 Habitats Directive. Invasive alien species is one of the most occurring pressure in habitats in Europe.

The studies planned in the project POIS.02.04.00-00-0100/16-00 "Development of the rules for the control of invasive alien species with pilot actions and social education" include analyses of the impact of invasive species on natural habitats, including wetland habitats.

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

A=Yes

#### 4.3 Additional Information

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

> Where necessary, management plans for Natura 2000 sites protected wetland habitats and water-related protected species (for 10 years) and nature reserves management plans (for 20 years) includes moving and cutting biomass as well as rising of underground water level. Due to restrictions in resources, not all Natura 2000 sites have got established management plans. Moreover, climate change processes (lack of precipitations) promote invasive alien species spread, for instance, *Solidago canadensis*.

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

A=Yes

#### 4.4 Additional Information

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

> Actions aimed at limiting the occurrence of invasive species are undertaken at the local scale, mainly in protected areas (national parks, Natura 2000 sites, landscape parks and nature reserves). The control of giant hogweeds is at the highest intensity, for which funds are provided or secured also by local governments and other units. Within the framework of the POIS.02.04.00-00-0100/16-00 project entitled "Development of the rules for the control of invasive alien species with pilot actions and social education", a task will be

implemented consisting in determination of the invasiveness degree for alien species occurring in Poland, for which implementation plans, as well as control methodologies, will be developed and pilot actions will be carried out. The mentioned complex actions will be carried out for 10 priority species, posing the greatest threat to the native nature and economy. Concerning other species, including 49 species from the EU list, activities will be carried out as part of the surveillance system for invasive alien species, which, according to the provisions of Art. 14 of the European Commission Regulation No. 1143/2014 on preventive and remedial actions regarding the introduction and spread of invasive alien species "(...) collects and records data on the presence of invasive alien species in the environment through research, monitoring or other procedures (...)".

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

D=Planned

#### 4.5 Additional Information

> The efficiency of activities in the field of control of invasive species will be tested for 10 priority species identified under the project POIS.02.04.00-00-0100/16-00 Development of the rules for the control of invasive alien species with pilot actions and social education. For these species, the effects of pilot actions will be tested (in the field of restriction of distribution, elimination). Besides, based on the analysis of available legal, methodological and financial tools as well as the institutional background, action plans for invasive alien species will be developed in Poland by 2030. The main objective of these plans will be to reduce the negative impact of invasive alien species on biodiversity as well as the economy and human health.

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

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

### Target 5

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 6,11, 12]

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

A=Yes

#### 5.1 Additional information

> The Strategy and Action Plan for Wetland Conservation in Poland for the years 2006-2013 with Cost Calculation determined the need to supplement the Polish list of Ramsar sites and indicated wetland types which should be included in the list. A new Wetlands Strategy including potential Ramsar sites will be prepared in 2021.

Based on the list in 2017/2018 three Carpathian wetlands were designed and progress has been made in transboundary Polish-Czech site establishment.

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

#### 5.2 Additional information

> Designation of new Ramsar Sites in Poland is based on the Strategic Framework (Res. XI.8 Annex 2).

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

E=Exact number (sites)

> 14

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

E=Exact number (sites)

> 14

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

E=Exact number (sites)

> 5

#### 5.3 - 5.5 Additional information

> Special conservation plans for Ramsar sites are not developed in Poland. However, all of these areas have the national nature protection status (national parks, nature reserves) and are included in the European ecological network Natura 2000. Conservation tasks (for 1-5 years cycle) have been developed for:  
- 9 Ramsar sites in national parks (Ujście Warty NP, Biebrza, Słowiński, Wigry, Polesie, Narwiański, Karkonosze, Tatry)  
- 2 nature reserves (Łuknajno, Siedem Wysp)  
Conservation management plans for 20 years have been implemented in:  
- 3 nature reserves (Drużno, Bór na Czerwonym, Stawy Milickie)  
Other sites are located in Natura 2000 network and the management plans are in progress.

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

D=Planned

#### 5.6 Additional information

> Conservation plans or long-term conservation task plans (developed typically for 10 years) contain provisions concerning monitoring of the implementation of conservation activities. In the areas where these documents have been implemented, and after implementation of the remaining plans an assessment of the efficiency of their implementation will be possible. Assessment of the ecological effect is also obligatory in granted nature conservation projects. Their implementation is always included in the conservation tasks for the protected area in which they are realised.

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

E=Exact number (sites)

> 0

#### 5.7 Additional information

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

> In case of seven sites (national parks: Ujście Warty, Słowiński, Wigry, Biebrza, Narew, Polesie and Karkonosze) cross-sectoral advisory units are in function - National Park Scientific Councils which include i.a. representatives of local governments. The Ramsar site "Stawy Milickie" Nature Reserve has an advisory team, established by the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Wrocław, which includes representatives of science, practice, NGO, local governments, managing authorities and landowners. These entities do not have managing and dispute resolving functions according to KRA 2.4.iv.

### Target 7

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

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

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

A=Yes

#### 7.1 Additional information

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

> According to the Act of 13 April 2007 on the Preventing Environmental Damage and the Remediation of Environmental Damage, which also regulates the principles of liability for preventing environmental damage and repairing damage to the environment, in case of a threat of harm or damage, there is an obligation to report this fact to the regional director of environmental protection and the voivodeship inspector for environmental protection, who start the so-called damage procedure. Damage for the environment is defined as a negative, measurable change of the status or functions of the elements of the environment, evaluated concerning the original status, which has been caused directly or indirectly through the activity of the entity that utilizes the environment. Damage may concern land surface, waters, protected species or natural habitats.

Moreover, for the purpose of the art. 17 Habitats Directive and art. 12 Birds Directive the status of habitats and species from Appendices 1 and 2 of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive within Natura 2000 sites (all Polish Ramsar sites partially or in the whole overlap with the established Natura 2000 sites) to the General Directorate for Environmental Protection (Administration Authority) is reported from the regional directorates.

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

B=No

## 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

## 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

B=No

### 8.1 Additional information

> Numerous projects gathering information on the area and status of wetlands have been implemented in the country. The main sources of information on the distribution and preservation status of wetlands in Poland are:

- the GIS Wetlands system (GIS Mokradła): a database containing information on wetlands with a surface area over 1 ha (peat documentations of the Institute for Land Reclamation and Grassland Farming from the period 1950-1984, supplemented and updated with studies performed in the 1990s.). The precision of the data in this database is 1:100 000, thus they have a general character and they can be used to perform analyses at a regional or national scale

- the register and map of land ecosystems depending on the waters, based on, i.a. data from the GIS Wetlands system, created for the needs of planning management of water resources; the material possesses higher precision than the GIS Wetlands data, yet it is limited to objects located within Natura 2000 sites

- detailed inventories of certain wetland types: oligotrophic lakes, alkaline and calcareous fens, Baltic raised bogs

- inventories of selected species of wetland birds: the Eurasian curlew, harrier, snipe, implemented in the whole country

Partial inventories concerning eg. selected groups of animal species (such as amphibians, reptiles, birds), certain hydrological characteristics (e.g. water level, physical and chemical properties); some of such inventories cover large areas of Poland (e.g. the Mazowieckie Voivodeship and the project directed at the identification of valuable natural habitats in the agricultural landscape), some have a local range (inventories conducted by Marshall's Offices, Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection, landscape parks, national parks etc.).

The information on wetland areas is gathered also during monitoring of agri-environmental scheme of the RDP 2007-2013 and RDP 2014-2020.

It has to be stressed that the conducted inventories are not of complex nature and they are not always methodologically coherent, as they are carried out by various institutions and address diverse needs.

The inventory of the peat soil is essential to protect agricultural soil under Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions eligible for subsidies.

Moreover, the adaptation and mitigation of the negative consequences of climate change will require timely, targeted and relevant information about wetlands.

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

C1=Partially

### 8.2 Additional information

> The national inventory of wetlands has been partially updated during the update of such databases as The Natura 2000 sites database, the National Registry for Nature Conservation Forms (Geoserwis) and the Map of the Hydrographic Division of Poland (Hydroportal).

The GIS Wetlands (GIS Mokradła) database is a reference material, which is methodologically coherent and covers the entire area of the country, yet it requires both updates as well as a higher detail level.

Identification of wetland areas or objects carried out within various projects (e.g. identification of valuable natural habitats in the agricultural landscape), undertakings (e.g. environmental impact assessment), programmes (e.g. the so-called nature packages (4 and 5) of Agri-environment-climate measure) has only indirect inventory nature because these data are collected unsystematically, they are scattered, and not gathered intentionally. Their major and basic value is that they can contribute to the verification of the location of wetland objects. The actual inventories oriented both on the object identification, as well as the determination of their status, threats etc., coherent in terms of the applied methods, data analysis on a national scale, planning and conducting field reconnaissance, are projects of the Naturalists' Club (Klub Przyrodników) regarding alkaline fens, raised bogs. Data gathered during the monitoring of environmental effects of the agri-environmental programme is of a similar nature - uniform methodology, proper accuracy, precise spatial location. The downside of such monitoring is the lack of wetland habitats' identification - the reference units are registry parcels, for which the farmers use agri-environmental subsidies. Wetlands have also been partially inventoried during the development of the Natura 2000 management plans.

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

C=Partially

8.3 Additional information

> Continuation of the inventory during nature conservation projects aimed at expanding knowledge about wetland habitats takes place - plans for obtaining funds for the inventory of poor fens, large-scale projects using remote sensing data from Sentinel mission, developing tools enabling identification of natural habitats based on remote sensing data (e.g. project implemented in the Biostrateg program entitled: "HABITars: Innovative approach supporting the monitoring of non-forest Natura 2000 natural habitats using remote sensing methods"). The GIS Wetlands database is not updated regularly, thus it cannot be used to conclude changes and current status of individual objects. Inventory of selected natural habitats is carried out for nature packages under the Agri-environment-climate measure of the RDP 2014-2020 on selected agricultural plots, also with wetland habitats. The impact of these measures on nature is being monitored. Verification of wetlands is regularly performed under the management plans for protected areas (conservation plans and review of knowledge about key habitats and species for Natura 2000 sites, according to the plans of conservation tasks). Periodically, along with the update of water management plans in river basins (every 5 years), a list of areas designated for the protection of wetland habitats or species established in the Nature Conservation Act is also updated.

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

A=Yes

8.4 Additional information

> The outcomes of the majority of projects, under which the wetland inventories were carried out are available to the public in the form of internet databases, books (commonly available in electronic form on the websites of the contractor).

Moreover, they are provided upon request under the Act of 06 September 2001 on the Access to Public Information (Journal of Laws of 2016 item 1764, as amended) and the Act of 3 October 2008 on sharing information about the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessment (Journal Laws of 2017, item 1405, as amended).

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

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

\* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention  
Please select only one per square.

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

8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b)

> a) Many Ramsar sites have been influenced by climate change and low precipitation. The drought is observed in Świdwie Lake Nature Reserve. Conservation actions are taken in the sites combat with deterioration although the trend is negative.

b) The state of nature in the EU based on reports from the Member States under the Birds (2009/147/EC) and

the Habitats (92/43/EEC) directives and subsequent assessments at EU or EU biogeographical level shows that 36% areas of bogs, mire and fens are in good conditions and 61% of them are in not-good conditions. Next to the coastal and dunes habitats are the lowest percentage in Poland.

Main pressures for habitats: bogs, mires and fens, freshwater habitats and grasslands:

- natural processes (58% of assessments)
- agriculture (50%)
- human-induced changes in water regime (48%)
- forestry (46%)
- development, constructions and use of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (44%)

The condition of wetlands is deteriorating in comparison to the reporting period 2007-2012.

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

Main pressures - HD report

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

G=More than (km2)

> 45022,75

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
A -- Permanent shallow marine waters in most cases less than six metres deep at low tide; includes sea bays and straits.	0
B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds; includes kelp beds, sea-grass beds, tropical marine meadows.	0
C -- Coral reefs.	0
D -- Rocky marine shores; includes rocky offshore islands, sea cliffs.	111.2
E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores; includes sand bars, spits and sandy islets; includes dune systems and humid dune slacks.	0
F -- Estuarine waters; permanent water of estuaries and estuarine systems of deltas.	87
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats.	0.1
Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs.	0
H -- Intertidal marshes; includes salt marshes, salt meadows, saltings, raised salt marshes; includes tidal brackish and freshwater marshes.	3.45

I -- Intertidal forested wetlands; includes mangrove swamps, nipah swamps and tidal freshwater swamp forests.	0
J -- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons; brackish to saline lagoons with at least one relatively narrow connection to the sea.	909
K -- Coastal freshwater lagoons; includes freshwater delta lagoons.	0
Zk(a) - Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, marine/coastal.	0

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km<sup>2</sup>)  
> 1110.75

### 8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km <sup>2</sup> )
L -- Permanent inland deltas.	0
M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls.	1200
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks.	0
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes large oxbow lakes.	3640
P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes floodplain lakes.	0
Q -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes.	0
R -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats.	0
Sp -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools.	0
Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools.	0
Tp -- Permanent freshwater marshes/pools; ponds (below 8 ha), marshes and swamps on inorganic soils; with emergent vegetation water-logged for at least most of the growing season.	0

Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils; includes sloughs, potholes, seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes.	31000
U -- Non-forested peatlands; includes shrub or open bogs, swamps, fens.	2020
Va -- Alpine wetlands; includes alpine meadows, temporary waters from snowmelt.	0
Vt -- Tundra wetlands; includes tundra pools, temporary waters from snowmelt.	0
W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands; shrub swamps, shrub-dominated freshwater marshes, shrub carr, alder thicket on inorganic soils.	0
Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands; includes freshwater swamp forests, seasonally flooded forests, wooded swamps on inorganic soils.	1368
Xp -- Forested peatlands; peatswamp forests.	3504
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.	0
Zg -- Geothermal wetlands.	0
Zk(b) - Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, inland.	0

## 8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

> 42732

## 8.6 Human-made wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
1 -- Aquaculture (e.g., fish/shrimp) ponds.	700
2 -- Ponds; includes farm ponds, stock ponds, small tanks; (generally below 8 ha).	0
3 -- Irrigated land; includes irrigation channels and rice fields.	0
4 -- Seasonally flooded agricultural land (including intensively managed or grazed wet meadow or pasture).	0

5 -- Salt exploitation sites; salt pans, salines, etc.	0
6 -- Water storage areas; reservoirs/barrages/dams /impoundments (generally over 8 ha).	480
7 -- Excavations; gravel/brick/clay pits; borrow pits, mining pools.	0
8 -- Wastewater treatment areas; sewage farms, settling ponds, oxidation basins, etc.	0
9 -- Canals and drainage channels, ditches.	0
Zk(c) - Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, human-made.	0

## 8.6 Human-made wetlands total (km2)

> 1180

### 8.6 Additional information

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.

> % of changes in wetlands extent is not available at this time because the provided data are incomplete.

Wetland Strategy planned to be prepared at the end of 2021 will provide necessary data at the general level.

For a detailed level, the national wetlands inventory is needed but nowadays is not planned.

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

> National wetland inventory needs in term of technical, financial and governance challenges will be analysed in Wetlands Strategy planned to be developed before the end of 2021.

## Target 9

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 4, 6, 7]

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

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

D=Planned

#### 9.1 Additional information

> In 2021 Wetlands Strategy will be updated. The contract will include detailed analysis of the implementation of the action plan for 2007-2013, which will show the state of implementation of the previous Strategy; the current state of wetlands in Poland, climate change scenarios, macroeconomy analyses and action schedule. Numerous sectoral planning documents have pointed out to the protection and wise use of wetlands. These include e.g. The Rural Development Programme for the period 2014-2020, the National Water and Environment Programme and River Basin Management Plans (related to the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive) that discusses i.a. wise use of wetlands. The wise use of wetlands is primarily used on protected areas (national parks, nature reserves, Natura 2000 sites), i.a. through the implementation of conservation plans and conservation task plans.

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

B=No

#### 9.2 Additional information

> The obligations of the Ramsar Convention are reflected in some legal acts. According to the Nature

Conservation Act, any investment in the field of water maintenance and with possible impact on water relations on protected areas and within natural watercourses requires notification to the appropriate regional director of environmental protection, who may impose the obligation to obtain a decision on the conditions for conducting operations. In cases when the planned investment may significantly affect Natura 2000 sites (including wetlands), the regional director of environmental protection may impose an obligation to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment on the Natura 2000 site. Nevertheless, in the Act of 20.07.2017 the Water Law, a possibility has been introduced to commence an investment before the completion of the EIA procedures. Moreover, the Act introduces changes in the Nature Conservation Act and other acts.

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

B=No

#### 9.3 Additional information

> Wetlands are noticed as elements of natural water retention, thus it has been acknowledged that they have to be protected, e.g. at the level of general River Basin Management Plans. The present planning cycle includes requirements for the protection of wetlands, yet not as a natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management. Infrastructural investments constitute the main tool for the management of water resources, included in the measures designated for implementation in the flood risk management plans and river basin management plans. In more detailed planning documents, sometimes specific wetland objects are identified as increasing retention in a basin (e.g. Multi-criterion analysis of the feasibility of small retention facilities in the Central Vistula basin concerning ground retention" carried out as part of the "Flood Safety Program in the Vistula Central Water Region").

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

A=Yes

#### 9.4 Additional information

> Res. X.19 has not been implemented directly, but there are some partially implemented actions that reflect its approach. Under the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, river basin management plans, flood risk management plans and drought protection plans are subject to public consultation (for a minimum of 6 months). River basin management plans include educational and promotional activities (included in their action plan) with the allocation to the entire country, individual river basins or drainage basins of water bodies. Even though they do not directly concern wetlands, they refer to the sustainable management of waters, with the inclusion of requirements for wetlands. The work to enhance the awareness about wetlands protection needs must be continued.

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

C=Partially

#### 9.5 Additional information

> One of the directions of activities included in the Strategic Plan of Adaptation for sectors and areas sensitive to climate change by 2020 with a perspective to 2030 (prepared by the Ministry of the Environment and adopted by the Council of Ministers in October 2013) is the appropriate direction of activities related to the protection of biodiversity and forest management in the context of climate change. The Strategic plan contains such statements as: "From the viewpoint of habitat protection the most important activities are those related to the maintenance of wetlands and their restoration wherever possible", actions "continuation of the soil erosion protection programme, continuation and expansion of small water retention and soil retention programme, particularly in forests and grasslands" as well as conclusions and recommendations suggesting the extension of research in areas of particular sensitivity to climate change, i.e. wetlands, river valleys and on the coast, sustainable management of wetlands and river floodplains to maintain proper water flow and its quality.

The National Surface Water Restoration Program was developed by the State Water Management Polish Waters in 2020. The program assumes that the simplest and low-cost restoration measures should be most widely used, making maximum use of spontaneous processes; however, where they are not effective, active restoration measures will be necessary. As part of the study, the study "Handbook of Good Practice for Surface Water Restoration" - a compendium of knowledge, describing individual possible restoration measures, showing examples of various benefits of restoration and describing various aspects of its potential implementation. The handbook in chapter 2.7 describes renaturation in the context of climate change.

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

## 9.6 Additional information

> One of the objectives of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) for the period 2014-2020 is to support the protection of valuable natural habitats (including wetlands) in Natura 2000 sites and outside of their boundaries, as well as an improvement of water management and promotion of rational use of fertilization and pesticides. The Agri-environment-climate measure of RDP for the period 2014-2020 also envisages support for farmers for the management on agricultural land that favors maintaining valuable natural habitats. Furthermore, detailed objectives of the RDP include promoting the protection of ecosystems absorbing carbon dioxide in agriculture and forestry, including peatlands.

The National Surface Water Restoration Program links water retention with agricultural lands advising creation small retention systems for water gathering, purifying and use in the periods of droughts.

Such activities have also been envisaged in Regional Operational Programmes and in the Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment in which it is possible to obtain funds for the conservation of habitats and restoration of natural river courses. Examples of projects:

- Habitats and species protection in the non-forest water-dependent areas – General Directorate for Environmental Protection (2017-2022). The main objective of the project is to improve the conservation status of the water-dependent habitat types and species of non-forest areas covered by the project, the conservation status of which in the planning documents has been assessed as unsatisfactory (U1) or bad (U2). The project includes activities that are key to restoring the proper condition or stopping the negative trend of changes: carrying out activities related to stopping natural succession in the area of their occurrence and changing water conditions (building gates, filling drainage ditches, etc.), meadows mowing and biomass removal.
- In the period 2019-2021 OTOP is involved in the implementation of an international project devoted to the protection of peat bogs and wetlands of the Nemunas catchment area. The main purpose of the project is the development of sustainable (adaptive) peatland management by restoration and paludiculture for nutrient retention and other ecosystem services in the Neman river catchment.
- The project "Sustainable tourism and extensive agriculture for the Beka nature reserve", co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund under the Regional Operational Program of the Pomeranian Voivodeship for 2014-2020 and by the Provincial Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Gdańsk.
- Project CLEARANCE (CircuLar Economy Approach to River pollution by Agricultural Nutrients with use of Carbon-storing Ecosystems) 2017-2020: combine the concept of creating wetland buffer zones as "bio-filters" protecting rivers from agricultural pollution with the promotion of the so-called "Swamp agriculture" based on the commercial use of wetland plants.

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

Please select only one per square.

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

## 9.7 Additional information

> In the period 2018-2020:

a) In January 2020, the Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP) initiated the formation of the "Agriculture for nature" coalition.

The priority issues for the coalition are:

- the shape and scope of eco-programs
- Rural Development Program for 2021-2027, in particular, the shape and scope of agri-environment and climate programs
- Good Agricultural Culture Standards, consistent with the requirements of environmental protection.

The coalition has developed proposals for changes in the existing financial tools of the common agricultural policy, as well as new solutions aimed at supporting nature-friendly agriculture in Poland.

These include solutions for wetland habitats and species:

- solutions supporting paludiculture
- retention support solutions
- protection of breeding habitats of rare species of Charadriiformes
- protection of the corncrake breeding habitats
- extensive permanent grassland
- protection of Aquatic Warbler breeding habitats - proposed changes

b) LIFE + project 2016-2021: Reduction of CO2 emissions through the restoration of peatlands in the East Lowlands and Central Europe together with nine partners of five Baltic countries - Poland, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The entire project area in Poland with an area of 1,350 ha is located in the Słowiński National Park - the Ramsar area. One of the objectives of the project in Poland is to restore the natural water regime in the peatlands covered by the project by building 214 dams (gates) made of wood and degraded peat so that peat-forming vegetation can develop again and initiate the re-deposition of peat deposits. Moreover, existing vegetation such as shrubs and trees that worsens the water conditions in the bog will be removed. This action will improve the water conditions of peatlands. The harvested wood will be used to block drainage ditches and will result in additional carbon accumulation.

c) Project CentralParks (2019-22) creates tools for the natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians. They aim to protect biodiversity and landscape, taking into account the needs of local communities. They will be available to all protected areas. It is financed with Interreg and supported with Carpathian Convention.

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

B=No

#### 9.8 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate How many request have been submitted

> -

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

A=Yes

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

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

> Small wetlands are partly protected in agricultural areas supported with direct payments and rural development financial support. Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions require to maintain small wetland in arable lands. Some of the small wetlands are also protected as greening element of the payment. Local authorities have a right to protect small wetlands as an ecological feature (one of the protection forms in Polish environmental law). Almost over 8 000 ecological features in Poland at least half of them are mires, peatlands, ponds, oxbows, lakes.

There is a need to protect small wetlands in landscape-scale because of degradation of the wet habitats from drainage and climate change results (droughts).

### Target 10

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

[Reference to Aichi Target 18]

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

A=Yes

#### 10.1 Additional information

If yes please indicate the case studies or projects documenting information and experiences concerning culture and wetlands

> Cultural values and traditional knowledge about effective area management are included in planning instruments (protection plans, conservation task plans) and implementing conservation measures (e.g. support for beneficiaries using management practices and methods favouring the maintenance of valuable habitats under the Agri-environment-climate measure RDP 2014-2020). Protection of habitats and species that are subject to the protection of Natura 2000 sites is based on traditional methods of land management (e.g. later date of mowing wet meadows, using light equipment or hand mowing, proper water conditions of habitats - maintaining high water levels, leaving unmown fragments, etc.). These practices are a result of scientific investigation of the impact of various measures on valuable species and habitats rather than direct consultation of these methods with residents of the areas (Action 6.1.2.). In particular, such practices are promoted on protected areas being Ramsar sites, where the State Treasury Land is often leased to private users:

- The Biebrza National Park (mowing, including hand mowing, storing hay in stacks instead of mechanical baling),

- Słowiński National Park - extensive grazing and mowing of meadows by local tenants. Moreover, in the area

of the Słowiński NP, the traditional cultural fishery has been preserved (inland and coastal). Traditionally made fishing devices. The Słowiński NP has restored buildings: the Czerwona Szopa (Red Shed) and Dom Latarnika (Lighthouse Keeper House) related to the traditional fishery.

- the Warta River Mouth National Park (grazing and production of biomass for animals - summer pastures, mowing the area of 5,000 ha),
- the Narew National Park,
- Poleski National Park (the majority of the old roadside crosses and cemeteries have been restored; in the reporting period, beehive logs have been made and roadside avenues have been planted with fruit trees).

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

Please select only one per square.

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

**10.2 Additional information**

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

- > a) Among Wetlands Committee members are stakeholders of Ramsar sites ("Stawy Milickie" Naure Reserve). Other Ramsar sites are managed by national institutions.
- b) Participation of local communities is ensured in the planning process of protected areas management, including Ramsar sites.

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

A=Yes

**10.3 Additional information**

> Numerous publications promoting nature-friendly management (also on wetlands) based on traditional use have been published in Poland. They are issued both under projects and as separate publications. Traditional practices are promoted in the Rural Development Programme: they are included in the requirements of environmental packages protecting i. a. wetland habitats (peatlands, wet meadows) and wetland bird habitats.

**Target 11**

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

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

C1=Partially

**11.1 Additional information**

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

- > - Project CentralParks (2019-22) creates tools for the natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians. They aim to protect biodiversity and landscape, taking into account the needs of local communities. They will be available to all protected areas. It is financed with Interreg and supported with Carpathian Convention.
  - PhD publication was submitted in 2019 by Krzysztof Mączka in University of Poznań "Ecosystem services in environmental discourse - Application of ecosystem services concept in Poland".
- Results from the research indicate that the ecosystem services concept is reflected in the national

environmental policies and stakeholder deliberation in Poland. However, it is mainly depicted in an indirect, latent form. It was also found that in stakeholder deliberation conflicts originating from the relationship between actors and the structural context of relations were dominant ones, while sources of conflicts related to values and data were less significant. The results also indicated that there is a strong link between sources of conflicts and an ecosystem services type.

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

[PhD publication](#)

[CentralPark project](#)

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

C=Partially

11.2 Additional information

> The implemented programs and projects for the protection of wetlands have an indirect impact on the reduction of poverty (new work places) as well as water and food safety (improvement of the ecological conditions in general).

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

A=Yes

11.3 Additional information

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

> The protection plans and conservation task plans for protected areas, including those with Ramsar site status, are developed socially. This means that each individual intending to live and manage in a certain area has the possibility to take part in the preparation and implementation of the document. In practice, this means that apart from the environmental aspects, traditional farming methods and other needs of residents of these areas are taken to account. National parks lease land on large areas, the proper agricultural use of which (primarily mowing) is necessary to maintain natural habitats and species, including wetland species. The extensive use of valuable natural habitats outside of protected areas is supported within natural packages of the Agri-environment-climate measure RDP 2014-2020 (see answers to questions 9.6, 3.2). This solution makes it possible to combine financial and economical benefits with nature conservation. Most Ramsar sites, in particular those with national park status, have developed tourist infrastructure, which on the one hand channels tourism to the places where nature remains intact, and on the other hand responds to the social needs of tourism on protected areas as well as well-preserved nature, bringing income to the local population at the same time.

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

A=Yes

11.4 Additional information

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

> Following the applicable legislation, the cultural values, including cultural values of wetlands, are included during development of national park protection plans, along with those being Ramsar sites: Warta River Mouth NP, Słowiński NP, Wigry NP, Narew NP, Polesie NP (there are no cultural values of the Ramsar site Subalpine peat bogs in Karkonosze NP). As an example, the protection plan of the Polesie National Park includes traditional farming forms (i.e. grazing), the study and application of the model for the regional development and home gardens were prepared and a design of traditional Polesie farm holding was prepared.

## 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

A=Yes

12.1 Additional information

> The National Surface Water Restoration Program (KPRWP) presents a catalog of restoration activities taking into account the restoration of wetland ecosystems in the catchment area (in order to optimize the effects).

The proposed activities in the catchment area related to the restoration of wetlands concerned, inter alia, blocking or removing wetlands drainage ditches. It should be emphasized that the final decisions on the planned restoration activities indicated in the KPRWP will be taken at the stage of currently conducted works aimed at developing the 2nd aPGW (at the end of the 1st quarter of 2021 it is planned to start public consultations, while the publication should take place in December 2021).

The development of the National Surface Water Renaturation Program was one of the activities indicated in the update of the water management plans (aPGW) and thus in the update of the country's water-environmental program (aPWŚK) (in response to the identified hydromorphological pressures and urgent needs to improve the condition of surface waters in Poland).

## 12.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been effectively implemented?

{1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i

A=Yes

### 12.2 Additional information

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

> - In the forest areas administered by the State Forests National Forest Holding, numerous activities related to water management are carried out as part of increasing water retention in forests, through the construction of drainage facilities slowing surface water runoff and maintaining favourable habitat conditions in wetlands. It should be noted that among the hydrotechnical devices implemented under these projects there are also facilities not always directly related to the protection of wetlands (e.g. retention reservoirs) or accelerating water runoff (e.g. waterfalls, ditch kinetics). However, on a large scale, mainly devices are built that have a beneficial effect on water retention, i.e. thresholds, gates, dykes, earth dams and other structures damming up watercourses, as well as perform restoration activities, such as restoring the natural meandering of watercourses, removing tree bloom and shrubs from valuable non-forest wetland habitats, exclusion of forest fragments around streams (so-called near-stream zones) and forest stands flooded by beavers from forest management. These activities are continued, and some of the environmental effects are long-term.

- In the years 2018 - 2020, in the forest areas administered by the State Forests National Forest Holding, numerous activities related to water management are carried out as part of increasing water retention in forests, through the construction of water storage facilities, water damming facilities and slowing down surface runoff. The above mentioned allows the maintenance of valuable natural ecosystems in wetlands and thus has a positive impact on the protection of biodiversity. These numerous activities are carried out under the projects "Comprehensive project for adapting forests and forestry to climate change - small retention and counteracting water erosion in lowlands" and "Comprehensive project for adapting forests and forestry to climate change - small retention and counteracting water erosion in mountain areas". The effectiveness of these measures is measured by the volume of water retained in the reservoirs and the number of objects. As part of the projects implemented under both Projects, in the reporting period, at least 415 water retention facilities in the forest environment at a level of not less than 821 599 m<sup>3</sup> were completed. Among the above-mentioned facilities, there are facilities directly related to the protection of wetlands, such as gates and thresholds as well as small retention reservoirs or ecological pools. Especially in the Project carried out in mountain areas, due to the specific nature of the terrain, large-scale tasks are implemented in the field of preventing excessive water erosion and limiting surface runoff (these include, among others: culverts with large light, fords, bridges, pro-natural fortifications banks, installation of water drains on forest trails and roads). As part of both retention projects, by the end of 2022, more than 2,000 facilities have been planned to retain approximately 2.5 million m<sup>3</sup> of water in forest areas.

- Life KAMPINOS WETLANDS pl - LIFE12 NAT/PL/000084 (2013-2019). The project aimed to provide proper state of wetland habitats of Natura 2000 site „Puszczka Kampinoska”. It was planned that this would be achieved through the implementation of the following partial goals:1. A permanent increase in moisture of chosen wetland habitat fragments in Puszczka Kampinoska;2. Stopping succession of shrubs in wet open habitats;3. Decreasing conflict areas between nature protection interests and those of local communities. It was planned that the technical activities in the project would cover about 6,000 ha of wetlands of the Kampinos Forest. There are habitats protected within the Natura 2000 network in this area, such as riparian forests, wetlands, marsh meadows, fresh meadows and numerous species from the Birds and Habitats Directive. As part of the project, it was planned to build about 40 hydrotechnical devices (dikes, excavations, overhauls), initiate mowing for 56 ha of meadows, development of new water permits for weirs on the mainstream of the Forest -the Łasica Channel and the beaver population management plan. The project has achieved its goals and has achieved its results.

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

*Please select only one per square.*

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

### 12.3 Additional Information

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

> a) World Wetland Day is celebrated every year and it is an occasion to spread the knowledge of global peatlands resources

b) Life KAMPINOS WETLANDS pl - LIFE12 NAT/PL/000084 (2013-2019). The project provides for a wide spectrum of monitoring activities and assessment of the socio-economic impact of the project. The implementation of these activities was accompanied by numerous communication and educational projects. Consultation meetings, teacher training, participation in conferences and local picnics were organised. The project website, information boards, project gadgets and promotional publications related to the project were created.

c) Nature Conservation Act, environmental impact assessments and management plans for protected areas (especially Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and national parks) is a core of legislative instruments protected peatlands.

d) Numerous projects on extensive agriculture practices (late mowing, hay gathering) and agricultural land applied for agri-environmental-climate schemes support.

e) State Environmental Monitoring carried out for species and natural habitats by Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection

f) In the period 2019-2021 OTOP is involved in the implementation of an international project devoted to the protection of peat bogs and wetlands of the Nemunas catchment area. The main purpose of the project is the development of sustainable (adaptive) peatland management by restoration and paludiculture for nutrient retention and other ecosystem services in the Neman river catchment. 424 / 5000

Project CLEARANCE (CircuLar Economy Approach to River pollution by Agricultural Nutrients with use of Carbon-storing Ecosystems) 2017-2020: As part of an international consortium, scientists from Poland, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands are trying to promote a system in which the creation of swamp buffer zones it would gain support from the public sector, agriculture and business - as a solution friendly to nature and people.

g) In January 2020, the Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP) initiated the formation of the "Agriculture for nature" coalition.  
The priority issues for the coalition are:  
- the shape and scope of eco-programs  
- Rural Development Program for 2021-2027, in particular, the shape and scope of agri-environment and climate programs  
- Good Agricultural Culture Standards, consistent with the requirements of environmental protection.

### Target 13

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

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

A=Yes

#### 13.1 Additional information

> The national law requires strategic environmental impact assessment for all plans and programs with possible impact on the environment, in particular in Natura 2000 sites.

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

A=Yes

#### 13.2 Additional information

> The national law imposes the obligation to conduct environmental impact assessment in case of any project with a possible considerable impact on the environment, including wetlands. For the planned projects with a potentially significant environmental impact, the obligation to conduct an impact assessment depends on whether the authority competent to issue a decision on environmental conditions finds such an obligation. The potential impact on wetlands qualifies the project for the assessment. There were certain doubts about the qualification and assessment methods for the maintenance works on watercourses, yet appropriate legal changes have been introduced regulating the above issues (Art. 118 of the Nature Conservation Act). 430 Forest Division of the State Forests National Forest Holding, managing 83% of forests in Poland, operate based on forest management plans (PUL), subject to strategic environmental impact assessment, in which the forecast of the impact of planned economic activities on the environment is made, including and protection of wetlands. PUL provisions are consulted with the relevant regional directorates for environmental protection and take into account the protection requirements of Natura 2000 areas, including wetlands. Forests that protect surface and groundwater resources in wet and marshy habitats, forests that protect springs, rivers and lakes that act as ecological corridors and are key to the survival of rare species of plants and animals are recognized as water-protective forests. Forests with special natural values, including wetlands, have been designated as HCVF forests according to the "Principles, criteria and indicators of good forest management in Poland FSC". In forest districts, constant environmental monitoring is carried out, which applies to all hydrogenic habitats.

## 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

D=Planned

#### 15.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative  
> Poland, along with the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine, participates in the Regional Initiative of the Ramsar Convention, i.e. the Carpathian Wetland Initiative. In the period 2018-2020, Poland was involved in workplan opinion and preparation of the application for EUKI funds project. The plan to take a part in the international workshop of wetlands restoration was cancelled due to pandemic restrictions.

During the 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP6), which took place on 25 November 2020, Poland has taken over the chair of the Convention for the next three years.

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

B=No

#### 15.2 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s)

> -

### Target 16

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 18]

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

#### 16.1 Additional information

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

> The tasks subjected to CEPA relative to wetlands are implemented, but there is no systemic approach.

16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

a) at Ramsar Sites

E=Exact Number (centres)

> 11

16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

b) at other wetlands

G=More than (centres)

> 4

#### 16.2 Additional information

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

> a) Centers functioning at Ramsar sites: The Biodiversity Centre of the Barycz River Valley at the Ramsar site Stawy Milickie, Education Centre and Museum "Świdwie", educational centers in national parks with the

Ramsar site status: Biebrza, Warta River Mouth, Narew, Polesie, Wigry, Słowiński, Karkonosze NP. Two of three new Ramsar sites submitted in April 2015 are also equipped with ecological education centres (Educational garden "Izery Trzech Żywiolów" in the Świeradów Forest District Office and the Ecological Education Centre in the Przemków Landscape Park).

b) There are numerous educational centres throughout the country, where wetland ecosystems play a significant role, e.g. the Centre for Ecological Education and Revitalization of Lakes in Szczecinek, Centre for the Management of Alluvial Forests in the Jarocin Forest District Office (where i.a. a model of a natural river is displayed), The "Natura" Centre in Ostrołęka (which i.a. displays a 5D movie "W krainie wielkiego sumy" (In the land of great catfish), presenting river ecosystem on the example of the Narew river), the Silvarium educational complex in the Krynki Forest District Office (crossed by a creek included in the educational offer, as well as fen and bog described in detail on educational boards in terms of the role of these types of structures in the environment). The subject of protection and sustainable use of wetlands is discussed in the educational offer of many forestry divisions, along educational paths, where the above contents are placed on thematic boards on stops near water reservoirs, swamps and peatlands.

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

Please select only one per square.

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

### 16.3 Additional information

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

> a) The law requires the participation of all stakeholder groups in the process of preparation protection plans and conservation task plans for the protected areas with Ramsar site status: national parks, nature reserves and Natura 2000 sites.

b) The new proposed Ramsar sites are reviewed by local governments. Their negative opinion may result in an area being not submitted.

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

A=Yes

### 16.4 Additional information

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

> a) Polish Wetlands Committee was established in May 2020. At the end of 2020, it includes 50 members: all Ramsar sites managers, ministries (Agriculture and Rural Development, Infrastructure, Climate and Environment), agencies (Polish Waters, State Forests, GDOŚ), scientists from institutes (ITP, IUNG IOP, IOŚ, IGIK) and universities (UAM Poznań, UW Warsaw), non-governmental organisations (WWF Poland, OTOP, CMOK, KP). The members are appointed at the request of GDOŚ or on the recommendation of other members. The Wetlands Committee is based on the "Principles of operation".

b) Wetlands Committee met twice: in June 2020 and in November 2020 (both meetings online).

c) The priority task of the Committee is to create a policy for the management of wetlands (support in Wetlands Strategy preparation) as well as:

- applying for entering a wetland area on the list of Ramsar protected areas
- providing substantive input to the national reports for the Conference of the Parties (COP Ramsar)
- support the establishment and management of the Ramsar cross-border area
- signalling of threats to Ramsar sites
- raising public awareness through educational activities and social campaigns
- issuing opinions on policies, programs, legislation related to wetlands management.

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

B=No

### 16.5 Additional information

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

> -

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

Please select only one per square.

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

### 16.6 Additional information

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

> a) NFP leads a correspondence with Ramsar sites managers in the fields of projects applications, new sites designation. In 2020 three reports were translated to Polish (Technical Report no 3, no 5 and no 6) and distributed in paper and electronically to the managers.

b) Official communication is leading with CBD NFP and Carpathian Convention

c) Official legal acts consultations, an expert working group in CAP post-2020, consultations of project applications in Natura 2000, conferences and training.

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

A=Yes

### 16.7 Additional information

> World Wetlands Day is celebrated in Poland every year. There are numerous events, lectures, trips, workshops and conferences about wetlands, with an emphasis on subjects selected by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat for a given year. The events are organised by non-governmental organisations (i.a. the Wetland Conservation Centre in cooperation with the Faculty of Biology of the Warsaw University), as well as budget units managing the Ramsar sites (national parks: "Warta River Mouth", Biebrza, Polesie).

Examples of the events organised in the period 2018-2020:

- on the Faculty of Biology of the Warsaw University: open academic conferences devoted to the current issues concerning wetlands protection and conservation in Poland, with relation to the World Wetlands Day subject in the given year. The event has been organised by the Wetland Conservation Centre in cooperation with the Warsaw University since 2002

- numerous walks, field trips, guided tours were organized around Poland to present the local nature in winter and to get familiar participants with the role of peat bogs in the natural environment. Many national parks and landscape parks organized workshops and plays for children and teenagers. For example in the Museum of Wielkopolski NP 150 people took part in the celebration of World Wetlands Day. In Chełm high school students prepared information leaflets, an occasional newsletter in the school corridor and organized a fair to protect the European pond turtle. The obtained funds were used to purchase food, supplements and fish oil for European pond turtles restored in the Poleski National Park – Ramsar Site.

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

A=Yes

### 16.8 Additional information

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

> Actions raising social awareness of the importance of wetlands are carried out by governmental agencies (including national parks, General and Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection, State Forest Holding "Lasy Państwowe", Landscape Parks) as well as non-governmental organisations (e.g. the Wetland

Conservation Centre, Naturalists' Club).

Component related to communication and promotion is included in the implementation projects related to environmental protection. It is implemented in various ways: leaflets and other information materials, meetings with residents, classes for children, art and photography contests, exhibitions, lectures, nature trips, etc. As an example, in the project " Conservation of selected habitats and species in Ostoja Słowińska PLH220023 and Pobrzeże Słowińskie - PLB220003 Stage I" LIFE13 NAT/PL/000018, Słowiński NP organised a photographic and art contest "Migratory wetland birds of Pobrzeże Słowińskie", workshops for adults about wetlands and issued educational packages regarding the protection of habitats, birds and fish in wetlands.

2) There are several long-lasting initiatives directed at environmental education related to the protection of wetlands in Poland, including those linked to Ramsar sites:

- Wszecznica Biebrzańska in the Biebrza National Park - regular informational meetings and thematic lectures addressed to the lovers of the Biebrza marshes and people engaged in their conservation and promotion),

- Biebrzańskie Sianokosy in the Biebrza National Park,

- Rzeczpospolita Ptasia (The Birds' Republic) in the Warta River Mouth National Park

3) Other events and campaigns related to education and promotion of wetlands and their wise use are organised irregularly. Examples from the period 2018-2020:

II National Scientific and Technical Conference "Functioning and protection of flowing waters" PotamON 2019 - Biocenosis of flowing waters in the context of hydrological changes

Conference Large Rivers in 2019: The conference concerns the recognition of the state of knowledge and the state of Polish research on hydrology, ecology and environmental hydrodynamics concerning the largest Polish rivers.

## Target 17

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

[Reference to Aichi Target 20]

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

A=Yes

17.1b If 'No' in 17.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment

> -

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

B=No

17.2 Additional information

If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities

> -

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

Z=Not Applicable

17.3 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP12

> -

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

Z=Not Applicable

17.4 Additional information

> -

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

Z=Not Applicable

17.5 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP12

> -

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

A=Yes

#### 17.6 Additional information

If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities

> Poland regularly pays contributions to the Convention and implements projects that meet the objectives of the Convention's strategic plan.

- Forestry: In the case of small retention projects implemented by the State Forests National Forest Holding, implemented in the reporting period, costs were incurred in the amount of at least PLN 109 million (of which EU funding exceeded PLN 65 million)

- Rural Development Program for 2014-2020: Investments in farms in Natura 2000 areas - EUR 42 million from EU funds and EUR 0.82 million from PL, Investments in water protection against pollution by nitrates from agricultural sources, EUR 2.51 million from EU funds, agri-environment-climate programs - EUR 303.26 million from EU funds and EUR 173.34 million from PL

- Aquaculture providing environmental services - EUR 34.93 million from EU funds and EUR 11.64 million from PL)

- Operational Program Infrastructure and Environment 2014-2020: Protection and improvement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure - EUR 247 million from the EU funds and EUR 43 million from PL, Protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 areas - EUR 34 million from the funds EU and EUR 6 million from PL

- LIFE projects: EUR 13 million and EUR 9 million from PL - Pandion haliaetus fish protection in selected SPA Natura 2000 areas in Poland; Protection of wetland bird habitats in the Upper Vistula Valley; Active protection of endangered species of amphibians and reptiles in Natura 2000 areas in Europe; Renaturation of the inland delta of the Nida River; Protection of the white stork in the river valleys of eastern Poland; Protection and restoration of wetlands in the Natura 2000 area "Puszcza Kampinoska".

### Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

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

D=Planned

#### 18.1 Additional information

> NFPs of other MEA may become members of Wetlands Committee.

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

B=No

#### 18.2 Additional information

> -

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).

A=Yes

#### 18.3 Additional information

If 'Yes' please name the agency (es) or IOP (s) and the type of assistance received

> The support is done through cooperation: participation in working groups, problem analysis and undertaking proper activities. The Polish partner of the Birdlife International - Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP), the Polish partner and founding member of Wetlands International European Association - the Wetland Conservation Centre, members of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (i.a. Institute of Nature Conservation in Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Environmental Protection) as well as WWF Poland actively participate and undertake actions related to wetlands.

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}

B=No

#### 18.4 Additional information

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

> -

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

A=Yes

#### 18.5 Additional information

> Information on the Ramsar Sites: their location and link to the RIS on the website of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, are available in the Geoserwis of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection. The National Focal Point has issued a leaflet containing synthetic information on the Polish Ramsar sites. The websites of the majority of entities managing the sites (mainly national parks) contain information on the Ramsar status assigned to the given area, as well as up-to-date, detailed information. Six Ramsar sites without national park status have been supplied with information boards explaining the site status and its natural values. Numerous scientific and academic publications about national parks with Ramsar site status (Biebrza, Narew, Polesie, Wigry, Słowiński, Warta River Mouth', peat bogs in the Karkonosze NP) are available, some of them also on-line on internet websites of the managing entities. Environmental monographs on the Druzno Lake and Świdwie Lake nature reserves have been published. There is a website dedicated The Świdwie Lake Nature Reserve (<https://www.swidwie.pl>), also leaflets and press articles concerning the reserve were published. Such information was also included on the leaflets promoting the Świdwie Reserve.

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

A=Yes

#### 18.6 Additional information

> The main transboundary systems:

- rivers and river basins: Oder, Nysa Łużycka, Bug
- peatlands of the Iżera Mountains
- subalpine peatbogs of the Karkonosze Mountains
- the Szczecin Lagoon
- the Vistula Lagoon
- The Orawsko-Nowotarskie Peatlands
- the Polesie peatlands.

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

C=Partially

#### 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

#### 18.8 Additional information

> Poland is a party in the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, known as the Bonn Convention, and it has also joined the Aquatic Warbler Memorandum of Understanding (*Acrocephalus paludicola*), established under the auspices of the Convention. The Słowiński National Park is part of the international network of Baltic Sea Protected Areas HELCOM.

Additionally, the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation (nowadays Ministry of Infrastructure) coordinates tasks in the field of international cooperation on border waters and included in the system of international waterways.

### Target 19

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 17]

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

B=No

#### 19.1 Additional information

> -

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

A=Yes

#### 19.2 Additional information

If you answer yes to the above please provide information on which mechanisms and materials

> The current core curriculum of general education for lower secondary and upper secondary schools, the completion of which is possible through passing the matriculation examination followed by obtaining the secondary-school leaving certificate, in force until August 2017 (MEN Regulation of 27 August 2012 on the core curriculum (...), Journal of Laws, item 977, as amended, Appendix no. 4) provides the content in this field within the subject of:

- geography (Student: indicates the environmental and economic importance of lakes and man-made water reservoirs; explains the causes of water scarcity in selected regions and indicates the economic consequences; justifies the need for restitution and preservation measures for natural elements of the environment in Poland (including activities undertaken in cooperation with other countries); indicates, on the example of the Sahel zone, the relationship between the forms of human management and water resources; justifies the need for rational management in an environment characterized by serious deficiencies of freshwater; describes, as an example, the consequences of irrational water management in selected regions of the world and indicates actions supporting rational water management; points out protection and restitution actions taken around the world for the geographical environment; becomes acquainted with the problems of protection of endangered species);

- biology (Student presents the environmental factors necessary for the proper functioning of organisms in the terrestrial and aquatic environment; becomes acquainted with the issues of endangered species protection and the ecosystem protection issues).

Ecology and environmental protection, including the issues of maintaining the aquatic ecosystem balance, is also included in the new core curriculum for the general education for primary schools, which has been gradually implemented beginning from the 2017/2018 school year, as well as in the project of a new core curriculum for secondary-level schools, which is in force from the 2019/2020 school year.

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

a) at Ramsar Sites

G=More than (opportunities)

> 5

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

b) at other wetlands

G=More than (Opportunities)

#### 19.3 Additional information

including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training

> Because of the climate changes, assurance of water quality and quantity is one of the hot spots in politics and management. Many project and programmes include training and workshops on wetlands management for managers, local authorities, teachers, students and administration.

Examples from the period 2018-2020:

a) In 2018 in Ramsar Site Ujście Warty NP the Director of the Warta Mouth National Park signed an agreement for co-financing the construction and equipment of the Museum and Educational Center. Subsidies from the EU Operational Program Infrastructure and Environment were awarded by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management. The project, the implementation of which will last until mid-2021, will cost PLN 22.9 million, and the European Union will support it with PLN 12.9 million. The museum and educational building, where exhibitions and workshops for teachers and tour operators will be prepared, will occupy 1,771 m<sup>2</sup>. It is expected that educational activities will cover 20 thousand. people per year.

b)

- II National Scientific and Technical Conference "Functioning and protection of flowing waters" PotamON 2019

- Biocenosis of flowing waters in the context of hydrological changes

- Life KAMPINOS WETLANDS pl - LIFE12 NAT/PL/000084 (2013-2019). The aim of the project was to provide proper state of wetland habitats of Natura 2000 site „Puszcza Kampinoska” - 4 training for teachers from

#### Kampinos National Park

- Conference Large Rivers in 2019: The conference concerns the recognition of the state of knowledge and the state of Polish research on hydrology, ecology and environmental hydrodynamics in relation to the largest Polish rivers
- E-learning course in 2019 organised by Sendzimir Foundation: Blue-green infrastructure for climate change mitigation - strategic tools and technical solutions
- The construction and role of small retention facilities and their impact on the formation and protection of wetlands were the subject of the training entitled "Best practices in the protection of wetlands", which took place in the Lipka Forest District (RDSF in Piła) in 2019.
- project CLEARANCE (Circular Economy Approach to River pollution by Agricultural Nutrients with use of Carbon-storing Ecosystems) 2017-2020: workshops for policy-makers, member state and civil society, NGOs, scientists and companies.

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

A=Yes

#### 19.4 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring

> National Ramsar Report was a baseline for project application for National Fund of Environmental Protection and Water Management for 2020-2022. According to the conclusions from the previous report, the Wetlands Committee was established, transboundary site on Polish-Czech boundary is in progress, materials for training in 2022 were translated for Polish and distributed (Ramsar Technical Reports no 3, no, 5 and no 6).

