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)
› Republic of Belarus

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Belarus_National_Report.pdf

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority
› Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title
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Designated Government National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Programme on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)

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

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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)
› Development and adoption of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Protection and Use of Peatlands” taking into account provisions of the Ramsar Convention.

2)
› Preparation and approval of the list of degraded peatlands subject to ecological rehabilitation.

3)
› Inventory of forest amelioration systems and determination of the direction of their use.

4)
› Ecological rehabilitation of 18,100 hectares of degraded and extracted peatlands by means of restoration of their hydrological regime in 2017-2020.

5)
› Elaboration and testing of the technic of accelerated restoration of fen mires on the example of Dokudovskoe peatland.

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

1)
› Reduction of the share of land under mires and water objects in the total area of the Republic from 6.13% (year 2017) to 6.09% (year 2019).

2)
› Presence of at least 141,000 hectares of disrupted peatlands subject to ecological rehabilitation.

3)
› Disruption of the hydrological regime of mires on an area of 67,000 hectares, absence of the system for regulating the water level on drained lands within the boundaries of the forest fund.

4)
› Excess of peat consumption over its growth by 12 times.

5)
› CO2 emission from peatlands into the atmosphere (4.45 million tons of carbon per year) excess the absorption of CO2 by peatlands (0.23 million tons of carbon per year).

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

1)
› Protection and sustainable use of wetlands.

2)
› Conservation of natural mires of Belarus and taking them under special protection.

3)
› Ecological rehabilitation of degraded wetlands.

4)
› Decrease in nutrient intake into water bodies.

5)
› Expansion of the network of Ramsar sites.

D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning priorities for implementation assistance and requirements for such assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?
› No recommendations

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 recommendations

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)?
› Coherence of national strategies for the implementation of relevant international treaties, close cooperation with the Convention on Biodiversity and other international environmental organizations in integration of nature conservation issues in different spheres of politics, consulting of national focal points.

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 targets for realization of the Ramsar Convention are reflected in the most important documents of the State planning: National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2020, National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030, Program of Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2020.
Water policy implementation issues are taken into account in sectoral strategies and plans, including:
- Sustainable use of water resources is considered into the Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020;
- Sustainable agriculture – in the State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020, Action Plan on Development of "Green" Economy in the Republic of Belarus until 2020, Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and National Action Plan on the Prevention of Land Degradation (including Soils) for 2016-2020;
- Sustainable use of fish resources is ensured by the State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020 (subprogram "Development of fishery");
- Sustainable hunting is envisaged by the State Program "Belarussian Forest" for 2016–2020;
- Stable functioning of forest ecological systems – by the State Program "Belarussian Forest" for 2016–2020 (forestry), the State Program "Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources" for 2016 – 2020 (natural resources);
- Sustainable development of peat industry – Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands and Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030;
- Sustainable tourism development - State Program on Tourism Development "Belarus Hospitable" for 2016 – 2020, the State Program "Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources" for 2016 – 2020 (subprogram "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity").
Connection of the Ramsar Convention with implementation of other state politics/strategies can be improved by including the main indicators of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Belarus (wetland area, area of restored ecosystems, reduction of CO2 emissions, improvement of water quality) into the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for the period after 2020 and into the National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the Period up to 2030.

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.
› There are no official national statistics on the balance between men and women involved in decisions, programs and research related to wetlands in Belarus.
However, the National Statistical Agency has information on the gender ratio of representatives of public authorities, local government, science, education, which allows us to indirectly judge the participation of women in decisions, programs and research related to wetlands.
The share of the female population in the Republic of Belarus is 53.4%. In state authorities that make decisions, including in the field of wetland protection, the proportion of women is lower: in the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, women make up 34.5%.
In the executive branch, the proportion of women is much higher: heads of the organization and their deputies make up 53.5%, heads of main departments, departments, sectors and their deputies make up 65.0%.
The participation of women in local government bodies is even higher: female heads of organizations and their deputies make up 58%, heads of main directorates, directorates, departments, sectors and their deputies - 74.0%.
The idea of women's participation in solving environmental problems, including in the field of wetlands, is given by the ratio of the number of students and undergraduates specializing in environmental sciences: women make up 80.4%, men - 19.6%.

I. Do you (AA) have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?
› No recommendations

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 Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus
National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus
National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
The State Scientific and Production Amalgamation "Scientific and Practical Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Biological Resources"
State Scientific Institution “Institute of Experimental Botany named after VF Kuprevich of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus”
United Nations Development Programme in Belarus
Republican Unitary Enterprise "Central Research Institute for the Integrated Use of Water Resources" (TsNIIKIVR)
BirdLife Belarus - Non-governmental organization

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	☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes ☐ Y=Not Relevant
b) Poverty eradication strategies	☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes ☐ Y=Not Relevant
c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans	☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes ☐ Y=Not Relevant
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes ☐ Y=Not Relevant
e) Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan	☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes ☐ Y=Not Relevant
f) National forest programmes	☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes ☐ Y=Not Relevant
g) National policies or measures on agriculture	☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes ☐ Y=Not Relevant
h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes ☐ Y=Not Relevant

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

1.1 Additional information

› The Strategy for the Realization of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus № 177 dated February 10, 2009. National targets for realization of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 are featured in the National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2020, National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030, Program of the Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2020, as well as in national strategies and plans aimed at conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, including wetlands: Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2011-2020; National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020; National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas until January 1, 2030; State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 – 2020; Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020; Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peat Resources of the Republic of Belarus and Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030; National Action Plan on the Prevention of Land Degradation (including Soils) for 2016-2020, and other strategic planning documents of sectoral development in energetics, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, hunting and tourism.

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
› Separate issues on assessment of quantity and quality of water resources needed to maintain ecological functions of wetlands in accordance with Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands are included in national legislation and regulatory acts, aimed at conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, including conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
According to the Water Code of the Republic of Belarus, legal entities and individual entrepreneurs should keep records of extracted groundwater, surface water taken and waste water discharged into the environment while conducting economic or other activities. Registration of extracted groundwater, taken surface water and waste water discharged into the environment should be done with the use of measuring instruments for flow (volume) of water.
State registration of volumes of extracted groundwater, taken surface water and waste water discharged into the environment, and other information about water use and protection are kept in the State Water Cadaster.
The State Water Cadaster is a systematized set of data:
- about water bodies (their number, location, area or length, taking into account the classification of water bodies);
- about hydrobiological, hydrochemical and hydromorphological indicators of surface water bodies, about their ecological state (status);
- on water users who use water on the basis of the right of special, isolated use of surface water bodies (their parts) for household and drinking, hydropower needs and defense needs or the right to lease for fish farming (by type and purpose of water use);
- on the volumes of extracted (withdrawn) water, discharged wastewater;
- on the reserves of groundwater;
- on records of extracted groundwater, withdrawn surface water and wastewater discharged into the environment;
- about other information about the use and protection of waters.
The State Water Cadaster is managed by the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environment Protection of the Republic of Belarus and Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus.
Renewable fresh water resources in Belarus in 2018 amounted to 55.0 km3, or 4.4 km3 less than in 2017, or 95% of the long-term average (57.9 km3). Water withdrawal from natural sources for the period from 2017 to 2019 decreased by 34.5 mln.m3 (2.5%) and amounted to 1363.0 mln.m3. At present 1052.7 mln.m3 (84.4%) of water extraction (withdrawal) and water disposal is measured by measuring devices.
The discharge of wastewater into surface water bodies decreased over 3 years by 3.2% from 1053 to 1019 million m3. The share of safely purified domestic and industrial wastewater is 99.6%.
The priority substances, the excess concentrations of which were recorded in the water of surface water bodies, are biogenic elements, less often organic substances.

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

› Within the frameworks of implementation of International Decade for Action “Water for Life” 2005-2015, United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Ministry of Nature Resources and Environment Protection of the Republic of Belarus has approved the Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020, defining the main problems and tasks in the area of water use and protection, taking into consideration assessments of environmental flow in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands.
The account of water flows in the Republic of Belarus is carried out according to the Methodology for the formation of the account of water flows in physical terms, developed in accordance with the international statistical standard "The Central Framework of the System of Natural and Economic Accounting, 2012" and approved by the Resolution of the National Statistical Committee of the Republic Belarus dated March 28, 2019 No. 12.
Water withdrawal from the environment in 2019 amounted to 1,374.5 million m3, which is 3.1% less than in 2017. The intake of water from surface water bodies amounted to 555.9 million m3, from groundwater bodies - 818.7 million m3.

The volume of wastewater passed through the treatment plant amounted to 679.0 million m3. The return flows of water into the environment, reflecting the volume of both used and unused water returned to the environment, as well as its losses and unaccounted consumption, amounted to 1,041.40 million m3, which is 55.1 million m3 less than in 2017. The efficiency of the intake (use) of water resources increased by 4.6% over 3 years and amounted to 63.9%.

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.)

☑ A=Yes

2.3 Additional Information
› During the reporting period, a management plan for the basin of the Pripyat River was developed, taking into account the requirements of the main ecosystems located in the catchment of this river. The management plan includes a characteristics of the Pripyat river basin, assessment of surface water and groundwater resources, determination of the state and prospects of economic activities in the catchment, assessment of the ecological state (status) of surface water bodies, identification of environmental problems of the river basin and ways of their solution, etc.
Based on the analysis, taking into account the requirements for the conservation and sustainable use of the main ecosystems in the basin of the Pripyat River, the measures were identified aimed at improving the ecological state (status) of surface water bodies, water balances and prospects for the use of water resources were determined, a scheme for integrated water resources management in the Pripyat River basin was developed.

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
› Management plans for water resources in basins of Neman, Dnieper, Western Bug and Pripyat Rivers have been developed;
These basin plans of distribution of water resources partially consider requirements of maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands.

2.5 Percentage of households linked to sewage system?
SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.
› 94.8

2.5 Additional Information
› The total capacity of treatment facilities in the country in 2019 amounted to 2579.9 million m3, which is 695.1 million m3 more than in 2017.
The share of households equipped with sewerage is 94.8% at the beginning of 2020, which is 2.9% more than in 2017.

2.6 What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country?
SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.
☑ E=Exact number (percentage)

› for urban population - 91.9%, rural population - 37.9%

2.6 Additional Information
› According to the results of the state program "Comfortable Housing and a Favorable Environment for 2016-2020", the proportion of households living in apartments (houses) equipped with sewerage increased from 91.9% to 94.8% over the period 2017 - 2020, equipped with water plumbing - from 93.7% to 96.1%.
At the same time, the provision of centralized water supply systems for the urban population is 97.7%, for the rural population - 68.9% (including the population of agro-towns - 80.7%). Provision with centralized and local systems of household sewerage systems for urban population - 91.9%, rural population - 37.9%. At present, 83.7% of consumers use centralized water supply, the water of which corresponds to drinking quality. The share of the population with access to water supply is 95.4%.
The share of insufficiently treated wastewater in the total volume of wastewater is 0.4%.

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)

› 3%

2.7 Additional Information
› The population connected to the public sewage system is 7,721.6 thousand people (82.1% of the total population).

2.8 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.
☑ C=Partially

2.8 Additional Information
› Ponds for wastewater treatment are used to regulate water supply of ameliorative systems, performing functions of water accumulation and water purification from suspended organic matter.

2.9 Number of wastewater treatment plants (or volume treated exist at national level)? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☑ G=More than (plants)

› 119 enterprises of housing and communal services and water utilities with 1300 sewage treatment facilities

2.9 Additional Information
› All Belarussion towns and cities have centralized sewerage and wastewater treatment system. Most of the industrial enterprises have autonomous treatment facilities.
135.3 million m3 of wastewater was discharged to the municipal sewerage system in 2018, which is 5.6 million m3 (+ 4.1%) more than in 2017.
There are 1,300 sewage treatment facilities in total, of which 707 are filtration fields (46%) and 593 are treatment facilities with artificial treatment (54%).

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
› More than 80% of wastewater treatment plants were developed using the technologies of 1970s-1980s. Wastewater treatment plants of a significant part of the enterprises have great physical wear and tear, require reconstruction and transition to new more efficient technologies. Issues of construction and reconstruction of wastewater treatment plants are considered in the Water Strategy of Belarus, Water Codex, national, regional and sectoral strategies and plans.
In recent years, a large amount of work has been carried out to reconstruct old treatment facilities and build new ones. The total capacity of treatment facilities in the country from 2017 to the beginning of 2020 increased by 695.1 million m3 or by 26.9% and amounted to 2579.9 million m3. The loading degree of the treatment facilities is 55.6%.

2.11 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.
☑ C=Functioning

2.11 Additional Information
› The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology in Belarus is 4.2%
Decentralized wastewater treatment technologies are represented in Belarus by filtration fields, filter trenches and sand and gravel filters. Their capacity is 530.7 thousand m3 per day; 47.6 million m3 / year were discharged in 2018 (this is 4.2% of the total volume of discharge of all categories of wastewater).
1034.0 million m3 of various degrees of treatment were discharged into surface water bodies, of which 1019.4 million m3 were discharged into watercourses and 14.6 million m3 - into water bodies. 689 million m3 of wastewater treated to standards, 341 million m3 of wastewater without preliminary treatment and 4.0 million m3 of insufficiently treated wastewater were discharged into surface water bodies.
The actual capacity of treatment facilities, after which wastewater is discharged into surface water bodies, amounted to 1,928 million m3 in 2018.
7.3 million m3 were discharged into the environment through earth accumulators (storage-regulators, sludge storage, ash storage, tailing dumps).

2.12 Number of wastewater reuse systems (or volume re-used) and purpose?
SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.
› 77000000

2.12 Additional Information
› Water volume re-used is 77 mln. m3.
In total, 1390 million m3 of water was extracted (withdrawn), the use of water for the purposes of water use is 1247 million m3. Water consumption in re-use systems without treatment in 2018 amounted to 77 million m3, which is 95.1% of the year 2017. Water consumption in re-use wastewater systems upon treatment in 2018 amounted to 5728 million m3, or 109.6% of the year 2017.

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 additonal information.
› The wastewater reuse system is for free.

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

2.14 Additional information: If Yes, please provide an example
› Waste water in the Republic of Belarus is understood as water discharged from residential, public and industrial buildings and structures after their use in economic and other activities, as well as water forming during precipitation, snow melting, watering and washing road surfaces (watering works) on the territory of settlements, industrial facilities, construction sites and other facilities and discharged into the environment, including through the sewage system.
Wastewater discharge into water bodies is regulated by the Water Code of the Republic of Belarus. According to this document, “discharge of waste water into surface water bodies is allowed if the content of pollutants in it does not exceed the standards for permissible discharges of chemical and other substances in waste water established by permits for special water use. If it is impossible to ensure the permissible concentration of pollutants in the composition of industrial wastewater discharged into surface water bodies, the concentration of these substances must be reduced by the construction of local treatment facilities".
Waste water discharge is not allowed:
- into lakes and stagnant water bodies, with the exception of technological water bodies;
- into streams that flow into lakes and stagnant water bodies, at a distance of less than 1 kilometer from such water bodies;
- into surface water bodies located in specially protected natural areas and subject to special protection;
- into reservoirs and watercourses (at a distance of less than 1 kilometer upstream of the watercourse), where objects of recreation, sports and tourism are located.
According to Article 26 of the Law "On the Protection of the Use of Peatlands", the use of natural swamps as receiver of wastewater, waters coming from reclamation systems and drainage networks of peat extraction fields is prohibited.

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
☑ A=Yes

3.1 Additional Information
› Application of incentive measures, stimulating rational use of water resources, is envisaged by the main strategic document in Belarus.
National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030 (NSUR-2030) is the main political document in the area of Belarus’ development; it includes political issues in the Water sector concerning ecological management and environmental protection. This document confirms a row of priorities such as: use of regulating measures and economic incentives to reduce the amount of drinking water used by industrial enterprises and to reduce amount of contaminants in wastewater discharged into waterbodies; applying of water saving technologies; reduction of water loss and unaccounted use of

water; and raising awareness among population.
The document “System of measures to strengthen the technological potential of the national economy, allowing it to function on ecological "green" principles” was approved in the Republic of Belarus to encourage private sector. This document defines short-term (until 2015) and long-term (2015-2020) technological, legal and economic measures for “greening”, envisages applying of mechanism of “green” state procurements, as well as establishment of different incentives for use of new ecological technologies, including the possibility of reduction of annual environmental tax by the sum of “green” investments.
Besides, a row of other economic instruments is used in Belarus to increase the rate of abidance of ecological legislation in industry and other sectors of economy. Some of these instruments are: environmental tax, tax for the use of natural resources, compensation for damage caused to the environment, payments for utilities (waste, water supply and sewerage, etc.). Financial incentives are used to attract investments to green technologies and to introduce the ecological management practice.

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

3.2 Additional information

› The private sector and the population are involved in ensuring financial sustainability of wetlands management. Thus, on the territory of Ramsar sites Sporovsky Biological Reserve and Zvanets the method of sustainable use of mire biomass in energetics, agriculture and building was successfully tested jointly with private sector to maintain fen mires in open state and protect globally threatened animal species. The financial resources received from this economic activity are used to increase the capacity of environmental institutions and to implement environmental measures on these Ramsar sites. Traditional method of engaging of the private sector and population to ensuring financial sustainability of wetlands management is development of ecological tourism, which is practiced almost on all Ramsar sites.
The private sector and local initiatives are engaged through international projects. The project “Landscape-oriented development of the rural territories of the Yaselda river valley with the participation of the local population” (NEAR-TS / 2017 / 391-409) has been implemented in 2019 in the Sporovsky reserve with the support of the International Foundation for Rural Development, aimed at developing local initiatives in the Ramsar site Sporovsky Biological Reserve. Similar projects aimed at sustainable use of mire resources were implemented in the Ramsar sites Yelnia, Olmany Mires.

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

› Incentive measures (subsidies, loans, etc.) are provided for organizations and individuals carrying out ecotourism activities in Protected Areas, including the Ramsar sites.

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 new edition of the Water Strategy was prepared, the Water Code was revised. These documents envisage mechanisms for prevention and minimization of incentive measures, which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Target 4

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

implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.
{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
☑ A=Yes

4.1 Additional information
› Currently, over 300 alien species of herbaceous plants and shrubs, 24 alien species of aquatic invertebrates, 120 alien species of terrestrial invertebrates, 15 alien species of fish, 1 alien species of reptiles, 4 alien species of mammals are registered in Belarus. A list of invasive alien species of wild animals and plants, which distribution and population size are subject to regulation was approved. Currently it includes 7 invasive plant species and 13 animal species. Assessment of the state of populations of invasive alien species is carried out within the framework of maintaining of the Cadasters of Flora and Fauna of the Republic of Belarus.
Strategy and Action Plan for the eradication of the Sosnowsky's hogweed Heracleum sosnowskyi, and other the most dangerous invasive alien plant species for 2018-2025 are developed and being implemented in the Republic of Belarus.
State of invasive plant and animal species is monitored in Belarus within the frameworks of the National environment monitoring system; recommendations on prevention and minimization of damage from their distribution are being developed. A computer data bank has been created and works are carried out on inventory and mapping of habitats of invasive species. There is a Centre on Invasive Animal Species established and functioning. It is interdisciplinary scientific unit of the Academy of Sciences of Belarus (www.ias.by). The aims of the Centre establishment are: preparation, implementation and coordination of activities for detection, evaluation and prediction of the introduction and distribution of invasive animal and plant species on the territory of Belarus; development of measures for prevention, minimization and reduction of damage from distribution of these species; accumulation, compilation and provision of information to interested bodies and departments.
“Black books” of invasive species of animals and plants of Belarus were published in 2016-2017 in order to inform the population about the problems and measures to combat invasive plants.
All the animal species included in the list of invasive alien species are wetland species. Taking into account that Belarus holds the watershed of the Baltic and Black Seas and the presence of navigable and other canals, a special attention is paid to the problem of invasion of alien species, for which Belarussian water courses and waterbodies are transit between sea basins or acceptor wetlands. Among them are fish species, crustaceans and molluscs, penetrated into the territory of Belarus in last decades: zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha), gravel snail (Lithoglyphus naticoides), Corophium curvispinum, spinycheek crayfish (Orcanectes limosus), Chinese sleeper (Percottus glehni), brown bullhead (Ictalurus nebulosus), Stone moroko (Pseudorasbora parva), round goby (Neogobius melanostomus), monkey goby (Neogobius fluviatilis), racer goby (Neogobius gymnotrachelus) and pond slider (Trachemys scripta). There are also plant invasive alien species threatening the floodplain ecosystems: Sosnowsky's hogweed (Heracleum sosnowskyi), giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum) and wild cucumber (Echinocystis lobata).

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
☑ C=Partially

4.2 Additional information
› In 2016 the list of invasive alien species was revised and updated according to data of invasive species monitoring. Currently it includes 7 species of invasive plants and 13 invasive animal species. Control and management of invasive species are conducted in accordance with legislation of the Republic of Belarus, normative legal acts and methodological documents. Local executive and administrative authorities have developed and approved action plans on the restriction of distribution and numbers of the most aggressive alien plant species - Sosnowsky's hogweed Heracleum sosnowskyi, giant hogweed Heracleum mantegazzianum, Canadian goldenrod Solidago canadensis, Acer negundo, black locust Robinia pseudoacacia, wild cucumber Echinocystis lobata. Several of them grow in floodplains of rivers and lakes and thus threaten wetland ecosystems (Sosnowsky's and giant hogweeds, wild cucumber). Measures for eradication of these species are developed and being implemented in practice. Primary attention is paid to eradication of Sosnowsky's hogweed Heracleum sosnowskyi, which poses a threat to the health of the population.

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
› Rules of regulation of distribution and population of wild animals state the list of invasive alien species of

wild animals subject to regulation in Belarus. This list includes 13 species: zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha), gravel snail (Lithoglyphus naticoides), Corophium curvispinum, spinycheek crayfish (Orcanectes limosus), Chinese sleeper (Percottus glehni), brown bullhead (Ictalurus nebu-losus), Stone moroko (Pseudorasbora parva), round goby (Neogobius melanostomus), monkey goby (Neogobius fluviatilis), racer goby (Neogobius gymnotrachelus), pond slider (Trachemys scripta), raccoon dog (Nyctereutes procyonoides), American mink (Mustela vison).
The list of plant species which distribution and numbers subject to regulation includes 7 species of invasive plants: Sosnowsky's hogweed (Heracleum sosnowskyi), giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum), Canadian goldenrod (Solidago canadensis), giant goldenrod (Solidago gigantean), Acer negundo, black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia), wild cucumber (Echinocystis lobata).

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
› Among alien animal species of high risk for wetland ecosystems are American mink, Raccoon dog, spinycheek crayfish.
Invasion of the American mink led to disappearance in Belarus of the native species – European mink. The spinycheek crayfish, which has penetrated into the country in recent decades, being a carrier of the crayfish plague, leads to the disappearance of the European crayfish and narrow-clawed crayfish, the number and distribution of which is decreasing. With its trophic plasticity, the raccoon dog continues to strongly influence the state of populations of terrestrial nesting wetland bird species.

4.5 Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?
☑ C=Partially

4.5 Additional Information
› The effectiveness of the control over distribution of invasive alien species is as-sessed on the base of the monitoring of alien species, as well as on the base of da-ta, provided by different institutions to the Ministry of Nature Resources. In total, identified locations of the Sosnowsky's hogweed have an area of over 4.5 thousand hectares in Belarus. Measures taken in recent years allow to stop the spread of this species across the territory of the republic.
Besides, measures for control over alien animal and plant species are envisaged by all Management Plans for Ramsar sites.

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
› Development of Ramsar sites network and their sustainable protection are among aims of the The Strategy for the Realization of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Also, to improve the coordination of planning and implementation of nature conservation activities, the strategic targets and action plan on the sustainable use of wetlands are included in the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020. Separate measures for complex management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands are included in the National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030; Scheme of Rational Allocation of Specially Protected Areas of Republican Importance till January, 1, 2025; Strategy on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands.

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
☑ A=Yes

5.2 Additional information

› The Ministry of Natural Resources, as a state body responsible for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Republic of Belarus, is constantly in contact with Ramsar Sites Information Service, also regarding issues on identification and designation of Ramsar sites. Scientific support of the Ramsar Convention implementation is provided by the department of international cooperation and scientific maintenance of environmental conventions, Scientific and Practical Centre of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Biological Resources. Information about the Ramsar sites is being constantly updated.

5.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a formal management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i
☑ E=Exact number (sites)

› 18

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)

› 18

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)

› 7

5.3 – 5.5 Additional information
› Management plans were elaborated, approved and accepted for implementation for 18 Ramsar sites; the management plans are revised every 5 years. To one degree or another, the plans are being implemented in all territories. Management planning is the most effective on those Ramsar sites where the management structures were established (14 state nature conservation management enterprises).
Management Plans have not been elaborated for the following Ramsar sites: Podvelikiy Moh, Vydritsa, Golubickaya Puscha, Drozbitka-Svina, Iput River Floodplain, Dnieper River Floodplain, Vileity, Svislochsko-Berezinskiy. All these territories (excluding Dnieper River Floodplain) are protected areas. Protected areas are managed by management agencies (state organizations). The management agencies are obliged to ensure the implementation of the environmental regimes established for these PAs, as well as the implementation of measures related to the declaration, operation, protection and use of PAs.

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal management plan or management via other relevant means where they exist e.g through existing actions for appropriate wetland management)? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii
☑ C=Partially

5.6 Additional information
› Management efficiency is assessed mainly for Ramsar sites with management plans developed. Reports on management plans implementation are discussed on meetings of Coordination (scientific-technical) Councils of National Parks, which ensures assessment of efficiency of management and decisions. Management plans are revised every 5 years.
METT assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management have been made in 2017 for the following Ramsar sites: 1218 Yelnia, 1219 Zvanets, 2250 Servech, 1007 Sporovsky Biological Reserve, 2139 Morochno, 1091 Olmany Mires.

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)

› 3

5.7 Additional information

If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites
› The following Ramsar sites have cross-sectoral management committees (scientific and technical councils): Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve (1927), Dikoe Fen Mire (2263), Pripyatsky National Park (2197). Other several sites (Yelnia, Zvanets, Servech, Olmany Mires Zakaznik, Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik, Sporovsky Biological Reserve) for which the State Nature Conservation Agencies were established, are managed in close cooperation of different organizations (Regional Executive Committees, Forestries, regional inspection of the Ministry of Nature Resources), but formally cross-sectoral management committees are not established.

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
› Management plans for Ramsar sites are revised per 5 years, and changes in ecological character are assessed during the revision. There is National system of environmental monitoring in Belarus, which envisages monitoring of the state of ecosystems, animal and plant species from the National Red Data book, as well as species protected under international obligations of the Republic of Belarus, including those inhabiting all the Ramsar sites. Monitoring data are transferred to Protected Areas management authorities for decision making in case of negative changes in ecological character of Ramsar sites.

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
☑ C=Some Cases

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
› In 2018 - 2020, information was sent to the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on the construction of forest roads and power lines within the boundaries of the Ramsar site No. 1091 "Olmany Mires".
Separate minor problems of negative changes in the state of ecosystems and species due to climate change and unwanted successions (lowering of groundwater level, overgrowth of fen mires and floodplain meadows with shrubs and reeds, dissemination of invasive species, etc.) are observed on many Ramsar sites, but these do not lead to significant changes of ecological character. Therefore, these problems are being solved on the national level.

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
› There are no Belarussian Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record.

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
☑ C=In Progress

8.1 Additional information
› Inventory of water resources was conducted (rivers, lakes, artificial waterbodies) (Water Cadaster), and peatlands, including natural mires (Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030). Wetlands inventory data received are constantly being updated. An inventory of forest reclamation systems is being carried out and will be completed in 2021. The registry of peatlands of the Republic of Belarus is under development and information entering.

8.2 Has your country updated a National Wetland Inventory in the last decade?
☑ A=Yes

8.2 Additional information
› The State Water Cadaster of the Republic of Belarus is maintained and updated on an ongoing basis, representing a collection of information on the state of water bodies in the country. The register of water bodies of the Republic of Belarus is being constantly maintained and updated by categories of watercourses,

lakes, reservoirs and springs.
Data on peatlands, including natural mires, were updated as well. Inventory of Belarussian peatlands was conducted within the frameworks of development of the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peat Resources of the Republic of Belarus during past 10 years.
Within the framework of the National Environmental Monitoring System, monitoring of surface and ground waters is constantly carried out: there are 297 observation points at 160 water bodies, of which 86 are watercourses (176 observation points) and 74 - water bodies (121 observation points).

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

☑ A=Yes

8.3 Additional information

› Cadastral information on the state of water bodies and water resources is maintained by organizations authorized by the Ministry of Natural Resources. The peatlands database was developed in 2016, which is in free access in internet: http://www.peatlands.by/

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

› Information from the State Water Cadaster, the register of water resources is available to all interested. The information system State Water Cadastre is available for public on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://178.172.161.32:8081/). “The State Water Cadaster. Water resources, their use and water quality” is published annually (http://www.cricuwr.by/gvkinfo). Information on the state of water resources is presented on the website of the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus, in the annual collections “Account of water resources flows in the Republic of Belarus” and “Environmental protection.” In the open Internet access is the “Database of peatlands of Belarus” - http://www.peatlands.by/.

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	☑ P=Status Improved ☐ O=No Change ☐ N=Status Deteriorated
b) Wetlands generally	☐ P=Status Improved ☑ O=No Change ☐ N=Status Deteriorated

8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b)

› Over the past three years, there have been both positive and negative changes in the state of wetlands in Belarus. Positive changes are results of implementation of measures, adopted by the Republic of Belarus in the framework of strategies and plans for wetlands conservation. Positive changes are related to improvement of the quality of surface and ground waters, expansion of the protected areas network, implementation of activities aimed at conservation of biological and landscape diversity on wetlands, and other.
Development and implementation of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands in Belarus and Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030 contributed to the conservation of mires in a natural or near-natural state. The rate of degradation of mire ecosystems has reduced, the frequency and area of peat fires decreased, the practice of drainage of natural mires and their use for peat extraction decreased. The implemented measures contributed to termination or deceleration of the degradation rate of natural ecological systems related to mires (lakes, rivers, forests, meadows), degraded as a result of drainage amelioration and peat extraction. The rate of degradation of habitats of rare and threatened species reduced also due to expansion of the network of protected areas, protection of the habitats and implementation of measures for their restoration. At the same time, despite the achieved success in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, ecological threats to biodiversity not only did not disappear, but new ones appeared, the most significant of which are the following:
- reduction of the area of wetlands, degradation of aquatic ecosystems (rivers, lakes) because of the disruption of the natural hydrological regime, hydro technical building, contamination by diffuse effluent from agricultural fields and insufficiently treated wastewater (the area of mires and water bodies has shrunk from 6.41 % to 6.09 % of the country’s area in period 2012 – 2019);
- presence of at least 141,000 hectares of disrupted peatlands subject to ecological rehabilitation;

- disruption of the hydrological regime of mires at an area of 67,000 hectares, absence of the system for regulation of the water level in drained lands of the forest fund;
- overgrowth of open natural meadows and fen mires with trees and shrubs as a result of changes in traditional land use, disruptions of hydrological regime, climate change; this leads to population decline of a row of rare and threatened animal and plant species (according to expert estimates, this process affected about 570,000 hectares of meadow and mire ecosystems);
- expansion of the invasive alien species, displacement of native species, related degradation and transformation of ecological systems (number of registered alien species over 10 years increased: animal species - from 110 to 167, plant species – from 1700 to 2100 species);
- population decline and shrinkage of the distribution area of a number of rare and threatened species of animals and plants, including globally threated ones (aquatic warbler, greater spotted eagle, common pochard, European eel, European crayfish, depressed river mussel, thick shelled river mussel, Aldrovanda vesiculosa, etc);
- reduction of fish productivity of natural water bodies and water courses, degradation of fish spawning grounds as a result of the disruption of their hydrological regime, eutrophication, overgrowth of shallow waters with reeds, as well as cessation of haymaking and grazing in floodplain meadows, which are spawning grounds for many native fish species;
- degradation of populations of native fish species and transformation of lake ecosystems to their eutrophication as a result of scientifically unjustified stocking of fishing grounds with alien fish species (Common carp, Prussian carp, Hypophthalmichthys species, grass carp).
These changes are not catastrophic for wetlands and Ramsar sites. Measures for threats mitigation are developed in strategic environmental documents and are implemented by stakeholder departments and organizations.

8.6 Based upon the National Wetland Inventory if available please provide a figure in square kilometres for the extent of wetlands (according to the Ramsar definition) for the year 2020 and provide the relevant disaggregated information in the box below. This Information will also be used to report on SDG 6, Target 6.6, Indicator 6.6.1, for which the Ramsar Convention is a co-custodian.
☑ E=Exact Number (km2)

› 14746.68

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.	
B -- Marine subtidal aquatic beds; includes kelp beds, sea-grass beds, tropical marine meadows.	
C -- Coral reefs.	
D -- Rocky marine shores; includes rocky offshore islands, sea cliffs.	
E -- Sand, shingle or pebble shores; includes sand bars, spits and sandy islets; includes dune systems and humid dune slacks.	
F -- Estuarine waters; permanent water of estuaries and estuarine systems of deltas.	
G -- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats.	
Ga -- Bivalve (shellfish) reefs.	

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

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km2)

› 0

8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
L -- Permanent inland deltas.	
M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls.	2489.0
N -- Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks.	
O -- Permanent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes large oxbow lakes.	471.45
P -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes floodplain lakes.	1823.2
Q -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes.	
R -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats.	
Sp -- Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools.	
Ss -- Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools.	

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.	
Ts -- Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils; includes sloughs, potholes, seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes.	
U -- Non-forested peatlands; includes shrub or open bogs, swamps, fens.	8630.0 (together with Xp, see comment below))
Va -- Alpine wetlands; includes alpine meadows, temporary waters from snowmelt.	
Vt -- Tundra wetlands; includes tundra pools, temporary waters from snowmelt.	
W -- Shrub-dominated wetlands; shrub swamps, shrub-dominated freshwater marshes, shrub carr, alder thicket on inorganic soils.	
Xf -- Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands; includes freshwater swamp forests, seasonally flooded forests, wooded swamps on inorganic soils.	
Xp -- Forested peatlands; peatswamp forests.	see comment below
Y -- Freshwater springs; oases.	
Zg -- Geothermal wetlands.	
Zk(b) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, inland.	

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

› 13413.65

8.6 Human-made wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
1 -- Aquaculture (e.g., fish/shrimp) ponds.	210.0
2 -- Ponds; includes farm ponds, stock ponds, small tanks; (generally below 8 ha).	156.24

3 -- Irrigated land; includes irrigation channels and rice fields.	
4 -- Seasonally flooded agricultural land (including intensively managed or grazed wet meadow or pasture).	
5 -- Salt exploitation sites; salt pans, salines, etc.	
6 -- Water storage areas; reservoirs/barrages/dams /impoundments (generally over 8 ha).	788.5
7 -- Excavations; gravel/brick/clay pits; borrow pits, mining pools.	
8 -- Wastewater treatment areas; sewage farms, settling ponds, oxidation basins, etc.	
9 -- Canals and drainage channels, ditches.	178.29
Zk(c) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems, human-made.	

8.6 Human-made wetlands total (km2)
› 1333.03

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.
› The total area of non-forested peatlands (U) and forested peatlands (Xp) together is 8630 km2 (we do not have date separate for each category).
The area of wetlands (swamps and water bodies) during the period 2017-2019 has changed from 6.13% to 6.09% of the country's territory.

8.7 Please indicate your needs (in terms of technical, financial or governance challenges)to develop, update or complete a National Wetland Inventory
› The inventory of wetlands in the Republic of Belarus is at the final stage. The cadaster of water bodies is maintained, monitored, and the data is constantly updated and replenished.
Currently, the register of peatlands of the Republic of Belarus is under development, which is an electronic database created for the purpose of information support for making management decisions in the field of protection and use of peatlands.
Within the framework of the “Wetlands” project, a database structure, electronic forms of input and output of information for various categories of users have been developed with the possibility of integrating the register of peatlands with other information systems. The collection of information on the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of peatlands in the Brest region was carried out, information about these peatland was entered into the database, and their boundaries were determined and digitized. A decision was made to collect data for the remaining 5 regions of Belarus and enter them into the register of peatlands.
Thus, the management and technical issues of the inventory and maintenance of the register of peatlands are resolved. An unresolved issue is the financial support for filling the register with information about peatlands in Grodno, Vitebsk, Minsk, Mogilev, Gomel regions (about 2000 objects in total). The financial requirements for solving this problem amount to about US $ 300,000.

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
☑ A=Yes

9.1 Additional information
› Strategic goals and measures for sustainable use of wetlands are included in the following strategic planning documents:
- Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020;
- National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas until January 1, 2030;
- Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands;
- Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020;
- Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and National Action Plan on the Prevention of Land Degradation (including Soils) for 2016-2020.

9.2 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.5}{1.3.6}
☑ A=Yes

9.2 Additional information
› During the reporting period, the Government of the Republic of Belarus developed and adopted the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On the protection and use of peatlands” dated December 18, 2019 No. 272-3. This Law establishes the legal basis for the protection of peatlands, the rational (sustainable) use of their resources and is aimed at conservation of swamps, preservation and restoration of the biosphere functions of swamps, satisfaction of the economic and other needs for these resources of present and future generations, as well as realization of the rights of citizens to a favorable environment and nature management, implementation of international agreements of the Republic of Belarus in this area.

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
☑ A=Yes

9.3 Additional information
› Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020 was developed in 2015-2016 and the new edition of the Water Code was prepared. The water strategy defines that water resources management in the Republic of Belarus is carried out according to the basin principle.

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
› Interdisciplinary councils on management of water basins of rivers Dnieper, Neman, Bug, Pripyat were established, which also deal with establishment of effective approach to communication, education, participation and awareness.

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

9.5 Additional information
› The following programs have been developed and approved, displaying policy and principles with regard to increasing role of wetlands in mitigation or adaptation to climate change: sub-program “Development of the State Hydrometeorological Service, Mitigation of Climate Change Impact, Improvement of Air and Water Resources Quality”, State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016-2020, Strategy for Forestry Adaptation to Climate Change until 2050.

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
☑ C=Partially

9.6 Additional information
› Legal basis for maintenance and improvement of the effective agriculture system (with incorporated wetlands benefits) is partially envisaged by the National Action Plan on Development of “Green” Economy in

the Republic of Belarus until 2020, by the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020, as well as by the State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020.

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	☐ C=Planned ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes
b) climate change	☐ C=Planned ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
c) valuation of ecoystem services	☐ C=Planned ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

9.7 Additional information
› Investigations aimed at studying changes in wetlands under the influence of climatic processes were carried out as part of the subprogram “Development of the State Hydrometeorological Service, Mitigation of Climate Change Impact, Improvement of Air and Water Resources Quality” of the State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016-2020, in the frameworks of the National environment monitoring system, other scientific and practical investigation projects.

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
› It is planned to submit 1 request.

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
› Belarus is making significant efforts to conserve small wetlands in accordance with the Resolution XIII.
For all springs, streams, small rivers and lakes, water protection zones have been established with a width of 500 m, and coastal strips with a width of 50 m, with significant restrictions on economic activities within these strips. Plowing of land, construction of buildings and structures, construction of residential buildings, mining, and final felling are prohibited within the boundaries of coastal strips.
Particular attention is paid to the protection of springs. So, on 13.05.2020, the VI International Water Forum “Springs of Belarus” was held in Minsk, at which it was decided to consider the springs as the country's national wealth. Most of the well-known springs in the country are taken under the state protection by declaring them natural monuments or by preparing protective obligations and transferring them under protection to land users.
As part of the preparation of the Strategy for the Conservation and Rational (Sustainable) Use of Peatlands, an inventory of peatlands in Belarus was carried out, including sites with an area of 10 hectares and more. The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Protection and Use of Peatlands " prohibits the extraction of peat from peat deposits, the area of which is less than 10 hectares. In addition, in all natural swamps of Belarus, including small ones, it is prohibited to carry out hydrotechnical, agroforestry, cultural and chemical land reclamation; works related to changes in the existing hydrological regime; exploration and production of minerals; construction of capital structures (buildings, structures), including engineering networks and transport communications; final felling, etc.

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 aspects of wetlands are components of sustainable use of wetlands and are reflected in justifications for the designation of protected areas, as well as in the management plans for Ramsar sites.

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	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=In Preparation ☐ B=No ☑ 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	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=In Preparation ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

10.2 Additional information

If the answer is "yes" please indicate the use or aplication of the guidelines
› Stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (BirdLife Belarus, "Environmental Initiative") are represented in the national Ramsar Committee. Local councils and public organizations take part in the work of scientific and technical councils when making decisions on the protection and sustainable use of Ramsar sites (development and adoption of management plans for protected areas, discussion of economic projects, EIA, etc.).
The public and the local population are involved in the processes of adoption of regulatory legal acts and projects of economic and other activities, as well as draft concepts, forecasts, programs and schemes of sectoral development, which realization is connected with biodiversity use, including conservation and use of wetlands through preparation and conduction of public discussions of projects of normative legal acts.
Participation of local communities and local people in management of wetlands, including Ramsar sites, is ensured through public discussions of management plans for protected areas, including Ramsar sites.
Knowledge and experience of local population are widely used and distributed through development of agro ecotourism in countryside. As of the beginning of 2020, Belarus registered 2760 agro homesteads; 515,301.8 thousand tourists visited them in a year, which is 2.7 times higher than in 2010. In 2020 there were more than 600 green routes in the country.

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
› The main nationality of the country is the Belarusians, who make up about 84% of the population. Traditional knowledge of the Belarusian ethnos is documented, observed and taken into account in the development of national legislation, signing of appropriate international agreements and is incorporated into Ramsar Convention implementation through participation of the population and self-governing bodies (councils of deputies) in management decision-making at all levels, including public discussions of regulatory legal acts and projects of economic and other activities, as well as draft concepts, forecasts, programs and schemes of sectoral development, which realization is connected with biodiversity use and/or can influence it.

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
› Ecosystem functions and services provided by Ramsar sites have been assessed for 18 Ramsar sites (with protected area status) during development of management plans (69.2% of Ramsar sites). This allowed increasing sustainability of water use according to ecosystem requirements.

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
› Wetland programs or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans are implemented in the following areas:
- involvement of the local population living on the territory of the Ramsar Sites in the development of tourism activities. For this purpose, the Republic of Belarus has developed and adopted a "Complex of measures for the development and promotion of ecological tourism in specially protected natural areas for the period until 2025". Such programs are carried out in most Ramsar sites;
- sustainable use of natural resources of Ramsar sites (berries, mushrooms, medicinal plants) by the local population in order to receive additional income (Ramsar sites Yelnia, Olmany Mires, Vigonoshchanskoe, Kozyansky, Stary Zhaden, ant other);
- sustainable use of mire biomass (trees and shrubs, reed, other mire grass);
- sustainable fishing (Ramsar sites Pripyatsky National Park, Sporovsky Biological Reserve, Servech, Osveiski, Vigonoshchanskoe, Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik);
- sustainable hunting (Ramsar sites Pripyatsky National Park, Osveiski, Vigonoshchanskoe, Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik, Zvanets, and other).

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii
☑ C=Partially

11.3 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names
› Management plans for Ramsar sites - protected areas necessarily contain a chapter on socio-economic values of wetlands. Management plans are developed and under implementation for 18 Ramsar sites.
Socio-economic values of the wetlands have been included in the Management Plans for the Protected areas (Section "Socio-economic and historical and cultural information"), taken into account during preparation of nomination applications form for designation of the Ramsar sites, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Areas (Section "Socio-economic potential"). See section V of this report for more details.

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19)? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii
☑ C=Partially

11.4 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names
› Management plans for Ramsar sites - protected areas necessarily contain a chapter on cultural values of wetlands. Management plans are developed and under implementation for 18 Ramsar sites.
Cultural values of the wetlands have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section "Historical and cultural attractions"), taken into account during preparation of nomination application forms for designation of the Ramsar sites (Section "Social and cultural value of the site"), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Areas (Section "Historical and cultural potential"). See section V of this report for more details.

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
› In 2019, the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Protection and Use of Peatlands" was adopted. According to the Article 35 of the Law, the following types of peatlands are subject to ecological rehabilitation:
- Degraded peatlands (their parts);
- Extracted peat deposits (their parts), which use for agriculture or forestry is technically impossible and (or) economically ineffective;
- Peat deposits drained for peat extraction (their parts), where the peat extraction was not conducted;
- Drained areas with peat soils, which use for agriculture or forestry is technically impossible and (or) economically ineffective.
The list of peatlands subject to environmental rehabilitation is determined on the basis of data from comprehensive monitoring of peatlands, the results of an inventory of peatlands, an inventory of reclamation systems and separately located hydrotechnical constructions, hydrological, soil, geobotanical and other scientific research in this area. This list is approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection on the basis of proposals from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.
In 2020, the Ministry of Natural Resources adopted a “List of peatlands subject to environmental rehabilitation”, which includes 211 disturbed peatlands with a total area of 141,500 hectares.

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
› Since 2007, 40 degraded peatlands with the total area more than 64,200 ha were restored in Belarus within the frameworks of several international projects and at the expense of national financing. 18,100 ha out of them were ecologically rehabilitated in the period 2017-2020.

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.

a) Knowledge of global resources	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
b) Education and public awareness on peatlands	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
c) Policy and legislative instruments	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
d) Wise use of peatlands	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

e) Research networks, regional centres of expertise, and institutional capacity	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
f) International cooperation	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes
g) Implementation and support	☐ Y=Not relevant ☐ X=Unknown ☐ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☐ A=Yes

12.3 Additional Information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Partially’, please indicate, the progress in implementation
› Within the framework of the global network that provides information on peatlands, there is partnership with neighboring countries (Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine, Poland, Russia) on issues related to established Ramsar sites, as well as interaction at the level of the Ministry of Natural Resources with neighboring countries on the issue of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
Plans to raise awareness of governmental bodies, the population, organizations, non-governmental organizations in the field of biodiversity conservation, including wetlands, are envisaged by national strategies aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity: the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020, National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030, Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020.
The following goal was achieved by the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020: to raise the level of education and awareness of state bodies and other organizations, including public organizations and the population about the state and significance of biological diversity and the measures that need to be taken for its conservation and sustainable use.
The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the protection and use of peatlands" as of December 18, 2019 No. 272-3 was developed and adopted. This Law establishes the legal framework for the protection of peatlands and the rational (sustainable) use of their resources. It is aimed at conservation of swamps, preservation and restoration of their biosphere functions, satisfaction of the economic and other needs for these resources of present and future generations, as well as the realization of the rights of citizens to a favorable environment and nature use, implementation of international treaties of the Republic of Belarus in this area.
In addition, The Law “On Environmental Protection” (article 58) of the Republic of Belarus states that Environmental Impact Assessment should be conducted for any planned economic and other activities that may have negative impact on the environment. Article 7 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On State Ecological Expertise, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment" provides that for economic and other activities planned for construction on Ramsar sites and within 2 kilometers of their borders, environmental impact assessment must be conducted.
National targets for increasing the sustainability of national economy sectors that are able to influence wetlands, biodiversity conservation and improve the quality of life at the local level are being implemented through:
- Sustainable use of water resources of surface and ground water (Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020);
- Sustainable use of land resources for agriculture (Action Plan on Development of “Green” Economy in the Republic of Belarus until 2020, State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020, Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and National Action Plan on the Prevention of Land Degradation (including Soils) for 2016-2020);
- Sustainable use of fauna, including fish resources (State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020 (subprogram “Development of fishery”);
- Stable functioning of forest ecological systems (State Program “Belarussian Forest” for 2016–2020 (forestry), Forest Codex of the Republic of Belarus, State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 – 2020 (nature resources));
- Sustainable agriculture, optimization of the structure of cultivated areas, including increasing the area under perennial grasses to 1 million hectares to ensure the implementation of organic land use (State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020);
- Sustainable development of peat industry (Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands and Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030);
- Sustainable development of tourism (State Program on Tourism Development “Belarus Hospitable” for 2016

– 2020, the State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 – 2020 (subprogram “Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity”).
Based on the Resolution of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus dated September 17, 2020 No. 18, a list of mires for which management plans are being developed, as well as a list of peatlands subject to environmental rehabilitation, were prepared.
Scientific support of the Ramsar Convention implementation is provided by the department of international cooperation and scientific maintenance of environmental conventions, Scientific and Practical Centre of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Biological Resources. The following institutions are involved into wetlands conservation: Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, State Scientific Institution "Institute of Experimental Botany named after V. F. Kuprevich NAS of Belarus", Republican Unitary Enterprise" Central Research Institute for the Integrated Use of Water Resources"(TsNIIKIVR), Public organization BirdLife Belarus and other.
Attraction of initiatives for the conservation, sustainable use and management of wetlands is carried out with state support and through international projects. Since 2007 40 degraded peatlands with the total area more than 64,200 ha were restored in Belarus within the frameworks of several international projects and at the expense of national financing. 18,100 ha out of them were ecologically rehabilitated in the period 2017-2020. Since the 13th Conference of the Parties, projects of international technical assistance GEF-UNDP, UNEP, EU, LIFE, OMPO have been implemented. International technical assistance projects (grants from international donors GEF, UNDP, UNEP, LIFE, EUWI +, etc.) in the amount of about 7.4 million US dollars are being implementing, aimed at sustainable use of wetlands. At the same time, for example, in practice, we don’t use additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities..

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
☑ D=Planned

13.1 Additional information
› Methods of Strategic Environmental Assessment are applied in development of programs’ strategies and action plans, that may impact upon wetlands (regulatory and legal framework for Strategic Environmental Assessment has been in force since 2017).

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 Law “On Environmental Protection” (article 58) of the Republic of Belarus states that Environmental Impact Assessment should be conducted for any planned economic and other activities that may have negative impact on the environment.
Article 7 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On State Ecological Expertise, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment" provides that for economic and other activities planned for construction on Ramsar sites and within 2 kilometers of their borders, environmental impact assessment must be conducted.

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
☑ B=No

15.1 Additional information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Planned’, please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative
› No

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)
› No

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	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes ☐ C=In Progress
b) Sub-national level	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☑ B=No ☐ A=Yes ☐ C=In Progress
c) Catchment/basin level	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes ☐ C=In Progress
d) Local/site level	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes ☐ 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
› Plans to raise awareness of governmental bodies, the population, organizations, non-governmental organizations in the field of biodiversity conservation, including wetlands, are envisaged by national strategies aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity: the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020, National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030, Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020.

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)

› 17

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
☑ X=Unknown

16.2 Additional information

If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks
› Visiting centers, information centers, educational centers exist in the system of nature protection, education, forestry, the tourism industry, and are created by local government structures. There are no official statistics on their number.

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	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?	☐ D=Planned ☐ C=Partially ☐ B=No ☑ A=Yes

16.3 Additional information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Partially’, please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved
› Mechanism of involving stakeholders to selection of new Ramsar Sites and Ramsar Site management includes public hearings and discussions during approval of management plans for protected areas, designated as Ramsar sites. Scientific and technical councils have been established and operate for the Ramsar sites based on National Parks. In addition, the established management agencies (state nature conservation agencies), as a rule, coordinate their activities with local authorities and land users.

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
› The Cross-sectoral Coordination Council for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention includes representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Property Committee, the Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Belarusian State University, the State association "Belvodkhoz", state association "Beltopgaz", public organization "Ahova ptushak Batskashchyny" (BirdLife Belarus), Belarusian public association "Environmental Initiative". For the period 2018 - 2020, the Cross-sectoral Coordination Council did not meet, the planned meeting in 2020 was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The main tasks of the Cross-sectoral Coordination Council are:
- Consideration of proposals for the implementation of national policy in the field of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands;
- determination of priority directions of scientific research on the problem of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands;
- coordination of the work of state bodies and other organizations in order to fulfill the obligations of the Republic of Belarus under the Ramsar Convention;
- facilitating the exchange of information between government agencies and other organizations on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention;
- organization of activities to inform the public about the problem of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

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
› No comments

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

16.6 Additional information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Partially’, please describe what mechanisms are in place
› To disseminate the Guidelines for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes are used (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website on the Clearing-House Mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE “Bel Research Center "Ecology" http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others). On the basis of the Berezinsky Reserve, advanced training courses are held for managers and specialists of the Protected areas Management Agencies (Nature Conservation Agencies) under the program "Organization of nature conservation and tourism activities in protected areas."

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
› Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities are carried out annually on the 2nd of February under the auspices of the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus.

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
› Activities are carried out by separate projects and on separate Ramsar sites. For example, the following activities are carried out on Ramsar sites:
- festival “Sporovsky Haymaking” (within Ramsar site Sporovsky Biological Reserve, the main purpose is revival and maintenance of hand haymaking on mires);
- “Cranes and Cranberry” – the purpose is maintenance of local population traditional trade (cranberry collection) and conservation of the Common crane on the Yelnia mire (Yelnia Ramsar site, Republican Landscape Reserve);
- Cranberry festival at Olmany Mires Ramsar site (Republican Landscape Reserve), etc.

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
› Not applicable

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
› Not applicable

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
› Not applicable

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
› Not applicable

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}
☑ A=Yes

17.5 Additional information

If ‘Yes’, please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP12
› Since the 13th Conference of the Parties, projects of international technical assistance GEF-UNDP, UNEP, EU, LIFE, OMPO have been implemented. International technical assistance projects (grants from international donors GEF, UNDP, UNEP, LIFE, EUWI +, etc.) in the amount of about 7.4 million US dollars are being implementing, aimed at sustainable use of wetlands.
State and local budgets finance separate issues related to designation of wetlands as Ramsar sites and wetland Protected Areas, development of management plans, monitoring, maintenance of Cadasters, and other activities aimed at conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

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
› Financial support was provided for measures aimed at effective implementation of 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024 through their inclusion in the governmental, sectoral and regional planning programs, such as:
- State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 – 2020 (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus № 205 dated 17.03.2016) – mitigation of climate change impact, improvement of air and water quality; conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity; maintenance of the national monitoring system, its development and enhancement;
- State Program “Comfortable Accommodation and a Supportive Environment” for 2016 – 2020, sub-program “Clean Water” (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 21.04.2016 № 326) – protection and sustainable use of surface and ground waters;
– State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020, sub-program 5 “Fishery Development” (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 11.03.2016 № 196) – sustainable use of fish resources;
– State Program “Belarussian Forest” for 2016–2020 (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 18.03. 2016 г. № 215) – sustainable use of forest resources and hunting;
Separate issues of conservation and sustainable use of Ramsar sites (infrastructure development, maintenance of nature conservation organizations, management plans development and other) are included in the regional planning programs.
At the same time, it is necessary to state a decrease in the specific volume of total government spending on environmental protection (including protection and re-habilitation of land, surface and ground waters) from 1% to 0.7%.

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
☑ A=Yes

18.1 Additional information
› National focal points of the Convention on Biodiversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification participate in meetings of the Cross-sectoral Coordination Council for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention .

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
☑ A=Yes

18.2 Additional information
› The main mechanisms are regular meetings and discussions of implementation of international projects with participation of UNEP, UNDP.

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
› Belarus has received the assistance from the following organizations: UNDP, EU, BirdLife International, UNEP, FAO.

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}
☑ C=Partially

18.4 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved
› There is partnership cooperation with neighboring countries (Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine, Poland, Russia) on issues related to designated Ramsar sites. There is also cooperation at the level of the Ministry of Nature Resources with neighboring countries on issues of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

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 wetlands and Ramsar sites is provided on the web page http://belfauna.by/frontend/web/ramsar-territory, as well as on web pages of environmental organizations, including the non-governmental ones, involved in activities on protection and sustainable use of wetlands.

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

18.6 Additional information
› Partially. Potential Ramsar transboundary sites were identified along the state borders with Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, partially – Ukraine. 4 transboundary Ramsar sites have been designated.

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
☑ A=Yes

18.7 Additional information

If ‘Yes’ or ‘Partially’, please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place
› Coordination Councils were established to manage all transboundary Ramsar sites. The joint management plan has been developed for the Ramsar site "Kotra-Cepkeliai". Management plan for Belarussian-Polish-Ukrainian Bioshere Reserve “Pribuzhskoe Polesie” has been developed, which includes issues on conservation of wetlands of Ramsar site "Polesye Valley of River Bug". The joint management plan was developed for the Belarussian-Ukrainian transboundary Ramsar site "Olmany – Perebrody Mires", and a row of joint actions has been implemented there to regulate anthropogenic pressure and reduce fire hazard. Development of the management plan for transboundary Belarussian-Lithuanian site "Vileity- Adutiskis" is planned.

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
› Belarus has joined the International Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) (within the frameworks of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) on January 1st, 2016 (Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus № 333 dated 21.07.2015).

Target 19

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

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

19.1 Additional information
› No comments

19.2 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes?
☑ C=Partially

19.2 Additional information

If you answer yes to the above please provide information on which mechanisms and materials
› Issues of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands are included in the education program for the personnel of the Ministry of Nature Resources, including the topic “Nature Conservation and Touristic Activities on Protected Areas”.

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
☑ C=Partially

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
☑ C=Partially

19.3 Additional information

including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training
› Almost all heads of state nature conservation agencies established for management of Ramsar sites have been trained at the national and regional levels on biodiversity conservation issues, including those related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the Fourth Strategic Plan for 2016-2024. Directors of state nature conservation agencies managing protected areas that are Ramsar sites participate in special meetings at the Ministry of Natural Resources and other workshops with participation of the experts of the Academy of Sciences on wetlands management, ecotourism development and involvement of local population to the wetlands management.

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
› Comparison of previously obtained data and newly obtained monitoring data have been conducted to assess the current state of implementation of the Convention. Corresponding corrections and amendments have been made.

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

Goal 1

Target 1: Wetland benefits

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]

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Priority
☑ A=High

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Resourcing
☑ B=Adequate

Target 1: Wetland benefits - National Targets
› The wetland benefits are taken into account during preparation of draft governmental programs, action plans, schemes and other documents, affecting issues of conservation and use of wetlands.
The last version of the National Strategy for Implementation of the Ramsar Convention was approved in Belarus in 2009. The Action Plan on the Realization of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat for 2009-2014 has been developed and successfully implemented. However, analysis of implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan has shown that the measures planned for Implementation of the Ramsar Convention overlap in many ways with other strategic documents on nature conservation and sustainable use. Thus, to prevent duplication of measures planned for implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024, the government has decided not to develop the Action Plan on the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention for the current period, but to include corresponding measures into other thematic strategic planning documents: Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity for 2016–2020, National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas, Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus, Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands, Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, National Action Plan on the Prevention of Land Degradation (including Soils) for 2016-2020.

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Planned activity
› 1. To include wetland benefits in the national strategies and action plans:
- Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable use of Biological Diversity for the 2011-2020;
- National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020;
- National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030;
- Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands;
- Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020;
- Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
- National Action Plan on the Prevention of Land Degradation (including Soils) for 2016-2020;
- other strategies and sectoral development plans.
2. To elaborate and adopt the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On the Protection and Use of Peatlands”.

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› 1. National targets on implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Action Plan for 2016-2024 are reflected in the National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030; in the national strategies and plans aimed at conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity: Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020, National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020, National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030, Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020, Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands, Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030, and other strategic planning documents of sectoral development in energetics, forestry, agriculture, fishery, hunting and tourism.
2. During the reporting period, the Government of the Republic of Belarus has developed and adopted the Law of the Republic of Belarus dated December 18, 2019 No. 272-3 "On the protection and use of peatlands", which establishes the legal basis for the protection of peatlands, the rational (sustainable) use of their resources and is aimed at conservation of swamps, preservation and restoration of the biosphere functions of

swamps, satisfaction of the economic and other needs for these resources of present and future generations, as well as realization of the rights of citizens to a favorable environment and nature management, implementation of international agreements of the Republic of Belarus in this area.

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Additional Information

› no comments

Target 2: Water Use

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]

Target 2: Water Use - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 2: Water Use - Resourcing

☑ B=Adequate

Target 2: Water Use - National Targets

› To ensure sustainable use of water resources, which will respect the ecological requirements of wetland ecosystems and which in the long term do not cause their depletion and thus make it possible to preserve their ability to meet the environmental, economic, aesthetic and other needs of the present and future generations.
Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020 is the main document that defines the basic principles of the state policy in the field of use and protection of water resources and aquatic ecosystem conservation, as well as the main activities for the conservation and use of water resources. Approaches included in the Water Strategy are used for development of predictions, plans and socio-economic development programs, town planning documents of general and special planning.
The main targets of the Water Strategy are:
- ensuring of good quality of surface and ground waters;
- provision of the population, industry and agriculture with adequate quality water;
- mitigation of negative impact of droughts and floods;
- wider use of water bodies for recreational purposes.
In the framework of the State Program “Comfortable Accommodation and a Supportive Environment” for 2016 – 2020, sub-program “Clean Water” has been developed and is being implemented, aimed at solving actual problems in the area of conservation and sustainable use of surface water and groundwater.
The surface water is monitored for 29 hydrochemical indicators (physical properties and gas composition of water, mineral composition, content of biogenic and organic substances, content of metals, etc.) at 297 observation points in the framework of the National Environment Monitoring System under the State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 – 2020, as a part of the subprogram “Development of the State Hydrometeorological Service, Mitigation of Climate Change Impact, Improvement of Air and Water Resources Quality”.

Target 2: Water Use - Planned activity

› 1. To include wetlands' needs into national strategies and plans for use of water resources, implementation of these schemes and strategies:
- Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020;
- Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020;
- National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020;
- Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands;
- Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030.
2. To reduce by 30% the surface waters' contamination caused by the inflow of biogenic matter from point or dispersed sources.
4. To increase sustainability of water use taking into account wetland ecosystem needs, let the wetlands to fulfil their functions and provide services.

Target 2: Water Use - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› 1. According to the target 2 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024, the use of water resources in the Republic of Belarus respects wetland ecosystem needs and let wetlands to fulfill their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale, including at the basin level or along a coastal zone.
The use of water resources in the Republic of Belarus taking into account the necessity to maintain wetland ecosystems is considered in the Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus and in other strategies and water use plans, including Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus , Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands, Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030.
2. Measures are being taken to reduce surface water pollution as a result of the discharge of nutrients from point and dispersed sources. During the analyzed period, as a result of the implementation of water protection measures, the condition of surface and groundwater bodies is improving, which is mainly associated with a decrease in the volume of water consumption and a decrease in the amount of pollutants entering water

bodies and waterways.
As before, the main cause of surface water pollution is the intake of pollutants in wastewater from local and diffuse sources. The largest amount of wastewater is generated in housing and communal services (over 60%) and industry (20%). At present, the total coverage of the population with a centralized water supply system is 96.1%. The share of the population connected to public sewers reached 94.8%. The share of safely treated domestic and industrial wastewater in the country is 99.6%.
Most of watercourses and water bodies, which hydrobiological and hydrochemical indicators are monitored, corresponded to a good and excellent status: for water bodies - 87%, for watercourses - 77%.
The most contaminated water bodies are still the sections of the Svisloch, Berezina, Western Bug and Yaselda rivers, located below large cities, as well as a number of watercourses that receive runoff from extensive irrigation and drainage systems. The technogenic pressure on water bodies in the basins of the Neman and Western Dvina rivers is significantly less.
The most significant substances that cause water pollution and eutrophication are nutrients and organic substances, their excess concentrations were most often recorded in water samples from water bodies. At the same time, during the analyzed period, a tendency towards a decrease in the concentration of pollutants (ammonium ion and nitrite ion) in water samples from all river basins of Belarus was registered.
Assessment of the balance of surface water quality showed that dispersed sources of contamination caused mainly by agricultural activities (runoff from livestock farms), washouts from agricultural lands (excess of organic and mineral fertilizers and pesticides), as well as dry and wet precipitation have a decisive effect on the quality of surface waters.
In the basins of most rivers, the volume of pollutants entering water bodies and reservoirs from non-point sources (ammonia nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, phosphates, organic matter) exceeds 50% of their total volume. Moreover, there is a correlation between the share of swamps in the catchment of rivers and the level of their pollution: the most polluted rivers were those, in the catchment of which most of the swamps were drained.
3. Wetland ecosystem needs required to fulfill their functions and provide services are taken into account during development of the basin management plans for the most of large rivers in the country: Dnieper, Pripyat, Neman, Western Bug. Besides, wetland functions were considered in the development of 18 management plans for the Ramsar sites, designated as protected areas (69.2% of all Ramsar sites), which allowed to raise the sustainability of the water use in the context of ecosystem requirements.
Water protection zones (with minimal width of 500-600 m depending of the type of the water object) and coastal stripes (with minimal width of 50-100 m) are set for all the waterbodies and watercources in the Republic of Belarus with limitation of economy activities, which could cause quality worsening of surface and ground waters. Borders of water protection zones and coastal stripes are defined in land management schemes, urban development projects, state urban cadastre, land cadastral documentation, forest management materials, as well as in documents certifying rights and restrictions (encumbrances) of rights to land plots.

Target 2: Water Use - Additional Information
› no comments

Target 3: Public and private sectors

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]

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Priority
☑ B=Medium

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Resourcing
☑ C=Limiting

Target 3: Public and private sectors - National Targets
› To engage public and private sectors to activities aimed at sustainable use of water resources through applying guidelines and good practices; to diversify the sources of financing for management of Ramsar sites.

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Planned activity
› 1. To engage public and private sectors to activities aimed at sustainable use of water and wetlands, including through their participation in the work of the public coordination ecological council and cross-sectoral Ramsar coordination council under the Ministry of Nature Respources.
2. Application of incentive measures, stimulating conservation of wetland ecosystems and rational use of water resources.
3. To engage private sector and local population for ensuring financial sustainability of management of wetlands (use of mire biomass, sustainable grazing, mowing, ecological tourism).

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› 1. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus implements a unified state policy and is the governing body in the field of environmental protection, including use of water resources, conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. The Ministry coordinates activity of other Republican bodies of state administration, local executive and regulatory bodies in the sphere of environment. The Public Coordination Ecological Council has been established under the Ministry of Nature Resources to coordinate efforts of governmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector and science. This Council includes about 20 public organizations. If necessary, representatives of business sector are invited to participate in meetings of the Public Coordination Ecological Council, which are held annually. Activity of the Council allows representatives of the public and business sector to participate in discussions of strategic documents' projects, including those on wetlands and water resources use.
2. Application of incentive measures, stimulating rational use of water resources, is envisaged by the main strategic documents of the Republic of Belarus.
National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030 (NSUR-2030) is the main political document in the area of Belarus' development; it includes political issues in the Water sector concerning ecological management and environmental protection. This document confirms a row of priorities such as: use of regulating measures and economic incentives to reduce the amount of drinking water used by industrial enterprises and to reduce amount of contaminants in wastewater discharged into waterbodies; applying of water saving technologies; reduction of water loss and unaccounted use of water; and raising awareness among population.
The document "System of measures to strengthen the technological potential of the national economy, allowing it to function on ecological "green" principles" was approved in the Republic of Belarus as an organizational document to encourage private sector. This document defines short-term (until 2015) and long-term (2015-2020) technological, legal and economic measures for "greening", envisages applying of mechanism of "green" state procurements, as well as establishment of different incentives for use of new ecological technologies, including the possibility of reduction of annual environmental tax by the sum of "green" investments.
Besides, a row of other economic instruments is used in Belarus to provide incentives for increased rate of abidance of ecological legislation in industry and other sectors of economy. Some of these instruments are: environmental tax, tax for the use of natural resources, compensation for damage caused to the environment, payments for utilities (waste, water supply and sewerage, etc.). Financial incentives are used to attract investments to green technologies and to introduce the ecological management practice.
3. The private sector and the population are involved in ensuring financial sustainability of wetlands management. Thus, on the territory of Ramsar sites Sporovsky Biological Reserve and Zvanets the method of sustainable use of mire biomass in energetics, agriculture and building was successfully tested jointly with private sector to maintain fen mires in open state and protect globally threatened animal species. The financial resources received from this economic activity are used to increase the capacity of environmental institutions and to implement environmental measures on these Ramsar sites.
In order to attract the private sector and the population to activities aimed at the protection and sustainable use of wetlands, local environmental funds are being created in the Ramsar territories. These funds develop

and implement joint initiatives, including participating in the preparation and implementation of international projects. Thus, the Sporovsky Biological Reserve and local environment fund “Reserves of the Brest Region” jointly with the International Foundation for Rural Development implement the international project “Landscape-oriented development of the rural territories of the Yaselda river valley with the participation of the local population” (NEAR-TS / 2017 / 391-409), aimed at developing local initiatives in the Ramsar site Sporovsky Biological Reserve. Similar projects were implemented in the Ramsar sites Yelnia, Olmany Mires and other.
Traditional method of engaging of the private sector and population to ensuring financial sustaina-bility of wetlands management is development of ecological tourism, which is practiced almost on all Ramsar sites.

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Additional Information

› no comments

Target 4: Invasive alien species

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]

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Resourcing

☑ C=Limiting

Target 4: Invasive alien species - National Targets

› To minimize the negative impact of invasive alien species of wild animals and plants on the state of native species' populations and ecological systems; to improve the mechanisms of prevention of new alien animal and plant species' invasion and lowering the damage caused to the environment.
Measures on invasive alien species control are envisaged by the National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020 and State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 – 2020.

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Planned activity

› 1. Update of the list of invasive alien species of wild animals and plants, which distribution and population size are subject to regulation;
2. Implementation of measures on regulation of distribution and population size of the Heracleum sosnowskyi and other invasive alien species of wild animals and plants;
3. Identification of the main pathways of introduction of invasive alien wild animal and plant species through rivers' basins and transport infrastructure elements; development and implementation of measures for prevention of the invasion.

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› 1. In the Republic of Belarus, the most aggressive alien species of animals and plants that pose a threat to the life and health of citizens, objects of fauna and flora and their habitats, water bodies, the environment in general, as well as causing harm to certain sectors of the economy are subject to regulation of the population size. These species are determined by regulatory legal acts, special measures are developed and implemented to reduce the negative impact.
The rules for regulating the distribution and number of wild animals approved the list of invasive alien species of wild animals, which distribution and population size are subject to regulation. It includes 13 species: zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha), gravel snail (Lithoglyphus naticoides), Corophium curvispinum, spinycheek crayfish (Orcanectes limosus), Chinese sleeper (Percottus glehni), brown bullhead (Ictalurus nebulosus), Stone moroko (Pseudorasbora parva), round goby (Neogobius melanostomus), monkey goby (Neogobius fluviatilis), racer goby (Neogobius gymnotrachelus), pond slider (Trachemys scripta), Raccoon dog, (Nyctereutes procyonoides), American mink (Mustela vison).
In accordance with the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated December 7, 2016 No. 1002 "On some issues of regulating the distribution and number of plant species", a list of species was approved, the distribution and number of which are subject to regulation. It includes 7 species of invasive plants: Sosnowsky's hogweed (Heracleum sosnowskyi), giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum), Canadian goldenrod (Solidago canadensis), giant goldenrod (Solidago gigantea), Acer negundo, black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia), wild cucumber (Echinocystis lobate).
2. The necessity of actions to prevent and minimize the negative impact of distribution of invasive alien species of wild animals and plants is envisaged by the National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030, Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus, other documents of strategic planning.
Coordination of work on the regulation of the number and distribution of invasive alien species of wild animals and wild plants is carried out by the Ministry of Natural Resources, local executive and regulatory bodies. Scientific support of these works is entrusted to the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. These activities are carried out by users of land plots and (or) water bodies.
The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection together with local executive and regulatory agencies develops and approves action plans on the restriction of distribution and numbers of the most aggressive alien plant species (Sosnowsky's hogweed, giant hogweed, Canadian goldenrod, Acer negundo, black locust, Echinocystis lobata). Measures for eradication of these species are developed and are under implementation. Evaluation of the effectiveness of control over the spread of invasive alien species is carried out on the basis of monitoring of alien species, as well as departmental and other data submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Special attention is paid to eradication of Sosnowsky's hogweed (Heracleum sosnowskyi), which poses a threat not only to the biodiversity, but also to the peoples' health. Currently, more than 4500 places of its growth with a total area of about 3000 hectares have been identified and mapped. In order to prevent and minimize damage from the spread of this species, district action plans are developed and approved annually for each of the administrative districts in which this species has been identified, which contain a set of organizational, technological and control measures to combat this species. A brochure "Carrying out measures to regulate the distribution and number of Sosnovsky's hogweed" was published, a technical code of established practice "Requirements for works on limitation of the spread and number of invasive plants by various methods" was developed and approved. Systematic work over the past decade has made it possible to stabilize the situation with this species. There is a tendency of the reduction of the area occupied by this species: decrease in the known local populations of the species by about 3-5%.
Amendments have been made to the regulatory legal acts in the field of protection and sustainable use of wildlife, which envisage regulation of the population size of the two most dangerous invasive species of animals (raccoon dog and spinycheek crayfish) all year round and without setting a harvest limit. Within the framework of state scientific and technical programs, scientific support is carried out for actions aimed at studying and developing scientifically based approaches to combating alien species. A scientific and technical program "Introduction and invasions" has been formed and is being implemented, aimed at researching and preparing proposals for minimizing damage from invasion of alien species.
One of the main activities in the area of eradication of alien invasive species is to inform the population about the problems and measures to combat invasive plants through electronic and print media. "Black books" of invasive species of animals and plants of Belarus have been published in 2016-2017; booklets and brochures are published, videos and social videos are produced, which are shown on television and posted on the Internet.
3. Ways and directions of penetration of the alien invasive species of wild animals and plants to the country's territory were defined. Penetration (invasion) of alien species to the territory of Belarus is caused by both anthropogenic and natural factors. The process of invasion has significantly accelerated due to intensification of commodity and other relations between various countries and global climate warming. As Belarus is a transit country, new alien species, including invasive ones, penetrate to its territory directly with transport (aviation, road, rail, river), as well as with transported goods, including when sending living organisms by mail. The process of invasion has significantly accelerated and has exponential character in recent decades. Over the past decade, the number of registered alien animal species has increased from 110 to 167, alien plant species - from 1,700 to 2,100 species. At the same time, the number of actually invasive animal species increased from 21 to 26, plants - from 54 to 61 species.
As part of the National Environmental Monitoring System, the state of the populations of 15 invasive plant species and 6 invasive animal species is monitored; recommendations are developed to prevent and minimize the damage from them. A computer data bank has been created and inventory and mapping of habitats of invasive plant species are being carried out. The work has begun on the creation of the Early Warning System for invasive plant and animal species.
The Center for the Study of Invasive Species has been established and is functioning under the Na-tional Academy of Sciences of Belarus. This Center coordinates works in the field of identification, assessment and prediction of the penetration and spread of invasive alien species of animals and plants in the Republic of Belarus. A website of the Center (ias.by) has been developed and is main-tained, aimed at providing the information about alien invasive species to all interested, including the public. Moreover, this center develops measures for prevention, minimization and reduction of damage from distribution of these species; accumulates, compiles and provides information to inter-ested bodies and departments. A website of the Center has been developed and is maintained, aimed at providing the information about alien invasive species to all interested, including the pub-lic; the database of these species' habitats is maintained (http://www.ias.by/).

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Additional Information

› no comments

Goal 2

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites

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

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Priority
☑ A=High

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Resourcing
☑ C=Limiting

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - National Targets
› To improve management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands by means of development and improvement of Management plans for wetlands and their resources.
Necessity to improve management of protected areas, including Ramsar sites and other wetlands, through effective planning and complex management of nature resources is reflected in the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020, in the National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030, in the National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020.
It is planned by the Target 8 of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020 to ensure the protection and sustainable use of natural and near-natural ecological systems most important for landscape and biological diversity conservation (on the area of at least 22% of the Republic's territory) by means of optimization of the specially protected areas system (at least 8.8% of the Belarus' territory) and natural areas subject to peculiar protection (at least 13.2%).
According to the main objectives of the National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030, the main directions of work in the area of development and management of protected areas are:
- optimization of Protected Areas system;
- Development of the Protected Areas system according to the Scheme of Rational Allocation of Specially Protected Areas of Republican Importance, regional schemes of rational allocation of Protected Areas of local importance, and in accordance with the National Ecological Network Scheme;
- Improvement of Protected areas management system through development and implementation of management plans for Protected Areas, including Ramsar sites.

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Planned activity
› 1. Development of the network of protected areas.
2. It is planned to develop management plans for 6 Ramsar sites until 2020: Dnieper River Floodplain, Stary Zhaden, Duleby Islands-Zaozerye, Morochno, Servech, Olmany Mires Zakaznik.
3. To establish the procedure and conditions for the development, approval and implementation of management plans for mires as part of the development of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the protection and use of peatlands".

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› 1. The main indicator of the development of the national network of protected areas for 2020 has been achieved: the share of the area of protected areas increased by 0.3% over the reporting period and amounted to 9% of the area of the republic.
“Scheme of the National Ecological Network” is developed and approved by Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 108, dated March 13, 2018. The National Ecological network represents a complex of natural territories with special environmental management regimes, ensuring natural processes of movement of living organisms, maintaining ecological balance, preserving biological and landscape diversity, ensuring sustainable development of territories.
The National Ecological Network includes 93 objects with the total area of 3.37 million hectares (16.2% of the country’s territory), including:
- 52 cores (key natural territories): 14 cores of European importance, 18 – of the national importance, and 20 cores of regional importance. The total area of core territories is 1.64 million hectares;
- 34 ecological corridors: 6 corridors of European importance, 19 – of the national importance, and 7 – of regional importance. The total area is 1.45 million hectares;
- 7 buffer zones with the total area of 0.26 million hectares.
As a part of the formation of a network of special environmental areas important for biodiversity conservation in Europe, the formation of the national Emerald Network continues, including 162 territories as of 01.01.2020, 155 of which were approved by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention as objects of the Emerald Network of Europe.

2. Management plans for 5 Ramsar sites have been developed over the reporting period: Olmany Mires Zakaznik, Duleby Islands-Zaozerye, Morochno, Servech, Stary Zhaden.
The joint management plan for the transboundary Ramsar site “Olmany – Perebrody Mires” (Belarus – Ukraine) was developed in the framework of the EU project “Creation of opportunities and conditions for joint management and sustainable use of natural resources of the transboundary Ramsar territory "Olmany – Perebrody Mires””.
In total, currently management plans were developed for 18 Ramsar sites, which is 69.2% from all Ramsar sites of Belarus.
3. The Law of the Republic of Belarus “On the Protection and Use of Peatlands” defines that management plans should be developed in case if it is necessary to take actions for protection of mires, to conduct ecological rehabilitation of degraded peatlands, protect, restore their biosphere functions, establish sustainable use of mire resources. Article 17 of the Law and Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated May 25, 2020 No. 313 establish the procedure and conditions for the development, approval and implementation of management plans for peatlands.
A list of peatlands for which management plans are being developed, including 28 priority objects, was approved by the Decree of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus dated September 17, 2020 No. 18 "On the establishment of lists of swamps and peatlands".

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Additional Information

› no comments

Target 7: Sites at risk

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

Target 7: Sites at risk - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 7: Sites at risk - Resourcing

☑ C=Limiting

Target 7: Sites at risk - National Targets

› 1. To ensure conservation and maintenance of the ecological character of Ramsar sites on the basis of analysis of anthropogenic threats.
2. To define trends and causes of changes occurring in water and mire ecosystems; to elaborate effective measures for their sustainable use and biological diversity monitoring system.
Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity defines the main threats to biodiversity of wetland ecosystems:
- overgrowth of open natural meadows, fen mires and raised bogs with trees and shrubs as a result of changes in traditional land use, disruptions of hydrological regime, climate change;
- degradation of wetlands as a result of their contamination by diffuse effluent from agricultural fields and insufficiently treated wastewater;
- fragmentation, disruption and degradation of natural habitats as a result of drainage of swamps;
- degradation of natural ecological systems (rivers, lakes, mires, forests) as a result of disruption of the natural hydrological regime due to influence of adjacent drained areas, drainage amelioration and hydrotechnical constructions;
- degradation of fish spawning grounds (overgrowth of shallow waters with shrubs and reeds, change of the water quality) as a result of eutrophication of wetlands, changes in their hydrological regime, as well as cessation of haymaking and grazing in floodplain meadows;
- expansion of the invasive alien species of wild plants and animals, displacement of native species, related degradation and transformation of ecological systems;
- forest and peat fires.

Target 7: Sites at risk - Planned activity

› 1. Implementation of the priority actions of the management plans for Ramsar sites to minimize or eliminate existing threats to biodiversity.
2. Development and introduction of a system of ecologically and economically effective use of mires' plant biomass in order to reduce their overgrowth with trees, shrubs and reeds.
3. Recovery of declining populations of wild animal and plant species listed in the Red Data Book of Belarus; implementation of Action Plans on conservation of wild animal and plant species listed in the National Red Data Book of Belarus.
4. Development and implementation of measures for stabilization and increase of populations of globally endangered bird species.
5. Monitoring of flora and fauna, complex monitoring of ecological systems within protected areas.

Target 7: Sites at risk - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› 1. Analysis of threats to biodiversity has been conducted during development of management plans for 18 Ramsar sites, and based of this analysis, measures and priority actions were developed to minimize or eliminate existing threats.
3. Methods of ecologically and economically effective use of mires' plant biomass (shrubs, reeds, other mire grasses) have been developed and applied within Ramsar sites Zvanets (Republican Landscape Reserve) and Sporovsky Biological Reserve. These methods let to effectively restore and maintain open state of fen mires. Application of these technology will ensure sustainable management at the area of 4500 ha (Zvanets) and 3000 ha (Sporovsky).
3. The system of protected areas is developing taking into consideration conservation of habitats of rare and threatened species. Currently it ensures protection of about 80% of plant species and about 90% of animal species, listed in the Red Data Book of the Republic of Belarus.
A system has been created and is functioning for identifying and transferring under special protection the habitats of plant and animal species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus. To date, 1453 animal habitats and 1758 plant growth sites have been identified and transferred under protection to land users. Action plans for the conservation of 30 species of plants and fungi, as well as 9 species of animals have been developed and are being implemented.
In the framework of international projects GEF-UNDP "Conservation-oriented management of forests and wetlands to achieve multiple benefits" ("Wetlands") and LIFE15NAT/LT/001024 "Stepping stones towards

ensuring long-term favourable conservation status of Aquatic warbler" the measures are implemented for restoration of habitats of globally threatened bird species (Aquatic Warbler, Greater Spotted Eagle, Great Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, and other): rewetting of formerly disturbed mires, restoration of open meadow and mire ecosystems by means of removal of trees and shrubs, implementation of mowing and grazing. According to forecasts, as a result of the measures taken, by 2020 the number of the Great Spotted Eagle should reach 100-120 pairs, the Aquatic Warbler - 4000-8000 males, the Great Snipe - up to 5000-6500 pairs, and the Black-tailed Godwit - 6500-9000 pairs.
4. Measures for stabilization and increasing of globally threatened bird species populations have been implemented. In the framework of the project GEF-UNDP "Wetlands" the works have been conducted for investigation of poor-studied globally threatened and rare animal and plant species (IUCN categories CR, EN, VU, NT) in Belarus; more than 200 populations of globally threatened species were transferred for protection; 25 new populations were created of the following globally threatened species: speckled ground squirrel (Spermophilus suslicus), great raft spider (Dolomedes plantarius), thick shelled river mussel (Unio crassus), depressed river mussel (Pseudanodonta complanata), European crayfish (Astacus astacus), great capricorn beetle (Cerambyx cerdo), hermit beetle (Osmoderma barnabita), false ringlet (Coenonympha oedippus), waterwheel plant (Aldrovanda vesiculosa).
5. There is effectively operating National Environmental Monitoring System in Belarus, providing necessary ecological information to all involved institutions and population, helping them to make operational management decisions, aimed at reduction of anthropogenic threats' impact to biological diversity.
The following types of monitoring contribute the most to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands: monitoring of surface water, groundwater monitoring, monitoring of flora, monitoring of fauna, and complex monitoring of ecological systems in protected areas.
Monitoring of the Flora includes: monitoring of meadow and meadow-mire vegetation, monitoring of aquatic vegetation, monitoring of protected animal and fungi species, monitoring of resource forming plant species, monitoring of invasive plants.
Monitoring of the Fauna includes: monitoring of wild animals, which are hunting objects, and their habitats; monitoring of wild animals, which are fishing objects, and their habitats; monitoring of wild animals, listed in the National Red Data Book, and their habitats; monitoring of wild animals, protected under international obligations of the Republic of Belarus, and their habitats.
Complex monitoring of ecological systems in Protected Areas is aimed at obtaining temporary layers of monitoring information for forest, mire, meadow and aquatic ecosystems, for separate flora and fauna objects (populations of animal and plant species, listed in the National Red Data Book); at identification of the main factors that have a negative impact on the state of ecosystems of Protected Areas, assessment of their impact degree. Based on the results of monitoring observations, proposals are being developed and submitted for management plans for Protected Areas.

Target 7: Sites at risk - Additional Information

› no comments

Goal 3

Target 8: National wetland inventories

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]

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Priority
☑ A=High

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Resourcing
☑ B=Adequate

Target 8: National wetland inventories - National Targets
› Inventory and update of data on Belarussian wetlands is one of the main goals of the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands, State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 – 2020.

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Planned activity
› 1. To complete the national inventory of wetlands.
2. To improve the peatlands inventory system.
3. To conduct inventory and determine directions of use of hydro-forest-amelioration systems of the forest fund land (on peatlands).

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› 1. The inventory and description of the modern state of peatlands has been conducted in Belarus over the reporting period. Borders, area and modern state of natural mires were defined. The area of identified and studied peatlands in Belarus is 2560.5 thousand hectares (12% of Belarus’ territory). At present, there are 1348 mires with total area about 863 thousand hectares (33.7% of the initial area) preserved in natural or close to natural state.
The database “Peatlands of Belarus” (peatlands.by) is open for public. The database let to conduct analysis and generalization of all information obtained and to use it for development of the Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use.
2. The improvement of the peatlands registration system is ongoing. The approved law “On the protection and use of peatlands” defines that the registration of peatlands should be conducted in the form of the registry. The registry of peatlands is a digital database, which includes the following information:
- peatlands’ names;
- location, borders, area of peatlands and hydrological buffer zones of natural swamps;
- land users and users of water objects, whose land plots and (or) water objects are situated within peatlands; for peatlands situated within the forest fund – the information about forestries, forest quarters, taxation units;
- types of swamps, categories of peatlands;
- estimated resources of peatlands;
- types of use of peatlands in economic or other activities;
- peatlands, subject to ecological rehabilitation;
- other information about peatlands.
The development of the registry of peatlands of the Brest region is currently being completed. The register of peatlands in Belarus is planned to be completed by 2025. The complex monitoring of peatlands is conducted in order to assess the state of peatlands, to predict changes in their state under the influence of natural and anthropogenic factors.
3. Inventory of forest amelioration systems was completed this year. The direction of further use will be defined for each drained forest peatland considering the requirement of restoration of the biosphere functions of swamps, which will let to prevent the degradation of forest peatlands at the area of about 260,000 hectares.

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Additional Information
› no comments

Target 9: Wise Use

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]

Target 9: Wise Use - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 9: Wise Use - Resourcing

☑ C=Limiting

Target 9: Wise Use - National Targets

› National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030 is the most important document defining the directions of the state's socio-economic policy, including policy issues in the water sector in the context of environmental management and environmental protection. This document defines a number of priorities, such as reduction of content of pollutants in wastewater discharged into water bodies; application of water saving technologies; application of regulatory measures and economic incentives to reduce the use of drinking water by industrial enterprises, reduce water losses and unrecorded water consumption, and others.
To implement goals of the National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030 in the area of conservation of water potential and to ensure decrease of water contamination in Belarus, the Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020 was developed, and new version of the Water Code was prepared and approved on April, 30, 2014 № 149-3. The new Water Code of April 30, 2014 envisages planning of water use at the level of river basins as one of its key principles. The Strategy and Water Code also provide steps towards harmonization of the national principles of water resources management with the EU Water Framework Directive. Hydro biological, hydrochemical and hydro morphological indicators are applied, and improvement of the ecological status is defined as the aim in the new Water Code.
Article 15 of the new Water Code determines the main river basins of the country as follows: Dnieper, Western Dvina, Western Bug, Neman and Pripyat. The same article requires the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection to develop River Basins Management Plans (RBMPs) for a period of 5 to 10 years. RBMPs are to be approved by the joint decisions of the corresponding regional executive committees in the territory of which the watershed of respective river is located.

Target 9: Wise Use - Planned activity

› 1. To develop River Basins Management Plans for Dnieper, Western Dvina, Western Bug, Neman, Pripyat rivers.

Target 9: Wise Use - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› Water resources management plans for the basins of Dnieper, Western Bug, and Neman rivers have been developed. Cross-sectoral Councils for management of water basins of these rivers were established, dealing also with issues in the field of building an effective approach to information, education, education and partnership. Development of the River Basin Management Plan for the Pripyat River has started in 2018. River Basin Management Plan for Western Dvina is planned to be developed in 2021-2022.
Belarus cooperates with neighboring countries on issues of common transboundary water basins: with Russian Federation – on management of water basins of rivers Dnieper and Western Dvina, with Ukraine – rivers Dnieper, Pripyat, and Western Bug, with Poland – river Western Bug, with Lithuania – Neman River, with Latvia – Western Dvina River.

Target 9: Wise Use - Additional Information

› no comments

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge

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].

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Priority
☑ B=Medium

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Resourcing
☑ B=Adequate

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - National Targets
› The Aichi biodiversity target 18 “By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.” has no match among the national targets of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus and is not reflected in the National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020, since there are no indigenous peoples and local communities on the territory of Belarus in the context of the Nagoya Protocol. It is obvious that the generally accepted approach to the preservation of traditional knowledge, developed taking into account the practice of the countries of Latin America and Africa, is not applicable to our country.
At the same time, traditional knowledge related to genetic resources of wetlands does exist, therefore it is necessary to introduce into national legislation provisions on the legal status of traditional knowledge and its holders. In the context of Belarus, “local communities” means any associations and unions of the subjects of the Republic of Belarus associated with the use of genetic and biological resources.
The main mechanism for the implementation of the state policy in the field of revival, development and preservation of traditional crafts, trades and all types of applied arts is the state program "Culture of Belarus" for 2016-2020, approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 04.03.2016 No. 180. The objectives of the State program are preserving the historical memory of the Belarussian people, their national and cultural identity and traditions, active involvement of the citizens of Belarus in the cultural life of the country, realization of the creative potential of the nation.

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Planned activity
› 1. Ensuring the operation of the National Coordination Center on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.
2. Holding festivals to exchange and disseminate traditional skills and knowledge on the use of biological resources, including wetlands.
3. Development of agro-ecotourism as a way to preserve and disseminate traditional knowledge that is important for the sustainable use of biodiversity.
4. Search for holders of traditional knowledge in the field of the use of genetic resources, establishing contacts with them and compiling their register.

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› 1. In accordance with the requirements of Article 13 of the Nagoya Protocol, the National Coordination Center on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization was established (Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of October 1, 2014 No. 933). the National Coordination Center provides registration, analysis and generalization of traditional knowledge, including providing stakeholders with information on access to traditional knowledge associated with the genetic resources of the Republic of Belarus and the conditions for their use. Since this area has practically not been studied, the National Coordination Center on Access to Genetic Resources performs the functions of determining the conditions of access to traditional knowledge associated with the genetic resources of the Republic of Belarus, and their use, including the sharing of benefits. The problems of preserving traditional knowledge will be reflected in the proposals for the inclusion of the requirements of the Nagoya Protocol into national legislation, which are being developed within the framework of the Project.
2. The traditional use of biological resources on the territory of the country can be attributed to the skills of traditional knowledge associated with regional features, including hunting, fishing, beekeeping (wild-hive beekeeping), weaving from vines and straw, picking mushrooms and berries (blueberries, cranberries, cowberries, strawberries), other.

Demonstration of traditional skills and knowledge in the region takes place in various forms, including festivals: “Sporovsky Haymaking” (revival and maintenance of hand haymaking on mires), “Cranes and Cranberry of the Miory region” in the Yelnia reserve, festival of cranberry festival in the Olmany Mires Reserve (maintenance of local population traditional trade (cranberry collection)), festival of waders “Turov Meadow” and other.
3. Traditional knowledge is increasingly being used in agro-ecotourism. According to the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus, as of the beginning of 2020, 2,760 agricultural estates were registered in the country, which were visited by more than 515 thousand tourists. In recent years, interest in recreation in Belarussian agro-estates has increased significantly, and according to the annual survey of readers of the Russian magazine “National Geographic Traveler” in 2018, Belarus won in the nomination “Best Destination for Agro-tourism”. The development of agroecotourism stimulates the accumulation, generalization and preservation of traditional knowledge at the regional level, the involvement of an increasing number of local people in this process.
Gastronomic tourism is actively developing together with the ecological tourism. This is an acquaintance of guests with old recipes of traditional cuisine, cooking home-made products (cheeses, sausages, bread, honey), farming, including using traditional techniques and methods of farming and local animal breeds. For example, the Vitebsk region is included in the European Culinary Heritage Network, which promotes local culinary specialties, traditional dishes and recipes. In the regions, traditional local cuisine is being restored and culinary festivals are being held, agro-estates unite and create routes for gastronomic tourism. Gastro-fests have gained well-deserved popularity, for example: gastro-fests "Smacna esti!" and “V gosti k Lepelskomu Tsmoku” in the city of Lepel, Vitebsk region; “Annensky kirmash” in the city of Zelva, Grodno region, “Motalskiya prysmaki” in the village of Motol, Ivanovsky district, Brest region, “Gifts of the forest” in Zaborye, Rossony district, Vitebsk region.
Traditional knowledge related to genetic resources is the focus of the third component of the UNDP-GEF project “Strengthening Human Resources, Legal Systems and Institutional Capacities for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol” (2018-2019), under which information was systematized on traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources available in Belarus; and field research was conducted to find holders of traditional knowledge. Taking into account national peculiarities, the emphasis is made on finding holders of traditional knowledge in the field of ethnomedicine, ethnoculinary and establishing contacts with them and compiling their register.

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Additional Information

› no comments

Target 11: Wetland functions

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

Target 11: Wetland functions - Priority

☑ B=Medium

Target 11: Wetland functions - Resourcing

☑ C=Limiting

Target 11: Wetland functions - National Targets

› Target 11 corresponds to the national target 2 of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020: “To develop the technique of estimation of the cost value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and integrate them into projects of concepts, forecasts, programs, schemes of sectoral development, which realization is connected with biodiversity use and (or) could influence it”, as well as to the measures of the National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020: determination of the legal framework for creating a market for ecosystem services (2016–2020); improving the methodology for the valuation of ecosystem services (2017–2020).

Target 11: Wetland functions - Planned activity

› 1. Identification of the legal framework for payments for ecosystem services (measure 13 of the Action plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020), improvement of technique for estimation of the cost value of ecosystem services (measure 14 of the Action plan).
2. Consideration of ecosystem services in the development of management plans for Ramsar sites.
3. Involvement of flora and fauna resources in economic in order to use them sustainably.
4. The functions, services and benefits of wetlands are widely reported and communicated to a wide range of people.
5. Implementation of programs and projects contributing to poverty reduction.

Target 11: Wetland functions - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› 1. A technical normative legal act 17.02-10-2013 (02120) “Environmental Protection and Nature Resources Use. The procedure for determining the cost value of ecosystem services and determining the cost value of biological diversity” was developed in Belarus. This document determines the procedure for the assessment of the cost value of ecosystem services and the cost value of biological diversity for making management decisions in the environmental sphere.
The methodic is based on the calculation of the cost of the economic effect resulting from the use of natural resources, taking into account the ecological component and the differentiation of ecosystem types and sub-types. The calculations are based on current cost approaches, including the tax value for environmental damage.
In 2017-2020 the development of the legal framework for calculation of ecosystem services and improvement of the technique for estimation of the cost value of biodiversity continued:
- the main directions of development of national legislation, prospects for the development and promotion of environmental innovations and ecosystem services have been identified;
- conception and methodic were developed for economic assessment of ecological risks in ecologically dangerous sectors of the national economy and probable losses of the natural resource potential as a result of natural disasters;
- 4 categories of ecosystem services have been identified for which the use of compensatory payments and the creation of markets are real (each category includes the list of services): 1) services for the provision of fresh water of adequate quality; 2) carbon sequestration services (conservation of existing forest cover, afforestation); 3) biodiversity conservation services (conservation of specific ecosystems, plant and animal species, biotopes, genetic diversity); 4) services for the preservation of the aesthetic properties of landscapes (establishment of new protected areas, objects of natural and cultural heritage, protection of natural monuments);
- Collection and analysis of information on statistics of environment protection, including issues in the area of biodiversity, ecosystem servicescare conducted annually.
2. Management plans developed for 18 Ramsar sites (69.2% of all Ramsar sites in the country) include cost assessment of ecosystem services and biodiversity, including estimation of the cost value of the carbon-sequestration capacity of forest and swamp ecosystems, sorption (water purification) function of swamps, assimilation potential of forest ecosystems, biodiversity ant other. Ecosystem services have been integrated into action plans for these sites.
3. The main form of use of flora and fauna resources of protected areas in economy is development of ecotourism and further involvement of financial resources received into biodiversity conservation and development of touristic infrastructure. In order to involve natural resources in the economy of protected

areas, including the Ramsar sites, the Republic of Belarus has developed and adopted a “Complex of measures for the development and promotion of ecological tourism in specially protected natural areas for the period until 2025”.
4. The functions, services and benefits of wetlands are widely demonstrated, and disseminated to a wide range of people through website of the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection and its local departments, webpages of Ramsar sites with state management agencies established, through mass media, publication of printed products (booklets, books, etc.), by holding festivals in specially protected natural areas.
Assessment of cost value of biodiversity and ecosystem services is included in the course “Economy of Nature Use” for future ecologists in several Belarussian Universities.
5. The State policy envisages the inclusion of issues of cost assessment of ecosystem services in strategic documents in the field of economic development and poverty reduction, including:
National strategies:
- National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2020;
- National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030;
- Program for Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2020.
Local strategies:
- programs for socio-economic development of each administrative unit of the country (118 administrative districts and 10 cities of regional subordination) include special sections devoted to the problems of environmental protection (including conservation of biodiversity), rational nature use, development of the “green” economy elements.
National planning documents (state programs, action plans, etc.):
- the system of national indicators of Sustainable Development Goals includes 17 indicators directly related to biodiversity (7% of theit total number);
- Scheme of the National Ecological Network;
- Action Plan on Development of “Green” Economy in the Republic of Belarus until 2020;
- Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus and National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020.

Target 11: Wetland functions - Additional Information

› no comments

Target 12: Restoration

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].

Target 12: Restoration - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 12: Restoration - Resourcing

☑ B=Adequate

Target 12: Restoration - National Targets

› Restoration of degraded wetlands is one of priorities of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus,Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands, Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The main priority of these strategic documents in the sphere of wetlands restoration is ecological rehabilitation of disturbed mires, extracted peat deposits, and drained lands with peat soils, which use for agriculture or forestry is technically impossible and (or) economically impractical. In addition, the priority also is given to restoration of open sedge mires, overgrown with trees, shrubs and reeds, as habitats of globally threatened animal species.

Target 12: Restoration - Planned activity

› 1. Development of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On the protection and use of swamps (peatlands)”.
2. Development and implementation of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands and Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030, as it is planned in the National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020.
3. Environmental rehabilitation of disturbed peatlands (disturbed swamps, extracted peat deposits, drained lands with peat soils, drained deposits for peat extraction where the extraction wasn’t conducted, which use for agriculture or forestry is technically impossible and (or) economically impractical).
National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity envisages restoration of 15% of degraded and inefficiently used ecological systems until 2020, including ecological rehabilitation of mires disturbed by peat extraction and ineffective drainage.
Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands envisages restoration of disturbed mires at an area of at least 75000 hectares (15% of all disturbed mires).
Restoration of degraded mires is one of the priorities of Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
4. Development and testing of the technology of accelerated recovery of open sedge fen mires at degraded peatlands are envisaged by the National Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020 (target 11, activity 56), as well as by the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands (improvement of technology of accelerated recovery of degraded mire ecosystems by means of mire plants planting).

Target 12: Restoration - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› During the reporting period, the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the protection and use of peatlands" was developed and adopted. The law defines the requirements for the protection and use of peatlands, including the procedure for environmental rehabilitation of peatlands.
Resolution of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus dated September 17, 2020 No. 18 "On the establishment of lists of swamps and peatlands" approved the list of peatlands subject to environmental rehabilitation, including 211 objects with a total area of 141.5 thousand hectares.
Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands and Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030 are being implemented.
Since 2007 40 degraded peatlands with the total area more than 64,200 ha were restored in Belarus within the frameworks of several international projects and at the expense of national financing. 18,100 ha out of them were ecologically rehabilitated in the period 2017-2020.
In the framework of international projects GEF-UNDP “Conservation-oriented management of forests and wetlands to achieve multiple benefits” № 96096 (“Wetlands”) 5 ineffectively drained peatlands with the total area of 12,100 hectares were restored in period from 2018 till 2020, and rewetting of the 560 hectares of the extracted peatland Dokudovskoe was conducted.
In 2018, with the support of the international project "Restoration of drained peatlands in Belarus", implemented under an agreement between the Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the public association "Green Economy" with financial assistance from the Forest Service of the Republic of Korea, according to the Changwon Initiative, ecological rehabilitation of peatlands located in the impact

zone of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident, was conducted on an area of 1.05 thousand hectares. Open sedge mires have been restored and system of ecologically and economically effective use of mires' vegetation biomass has been developed and applied in the Republican Landscape Reserve "Zvanets" and Republican Biological Reserve "Sporovsky" (Ramsar sites Zvanets and Sporovsky Biological Reserve). In the frameworks of this measure during 2018-2020 the tree and shrub vegetation was removed and reeds and other grasses mowed at an area of 3800 hectares. Harvested vegetation biomass is used for energy, agricultural and other purposes, taking into account the interests of the local population.
Technology of accelerated restoration of degraded mire ecological systems with use of planting of mire plants was tested in the extracted peatland Dokudovskoe at an area of about 500 hectares: the complex of measures was implemented here, including removal of shrubs, levelling of the soil, planting of seeds of sedges and other mire grasses, as well as the rise of water, providing optimal conditions for the growth of mire plants.

Target 12: Restoration - Additional Information

› no comments

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability

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]

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Priority
☑ A=High

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Resourcing
☑ B=Adequate

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - National Targets
› National targets for achieving enhanced sustainability of key sectors, when they can affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods, are implemented through realization of the state, sectoral and regional strategies, plans and planning programs.
- sustainable use of water resources of surface and ground water is envisaged by the Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020;
- sustainable use of land resources for agriculture are envisaged by the National Action Plan on Development of “Green” Economy in the Republic of Belarus until 2020, State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020);
- stable functioning of forest ecological systems, conservation of biological and genetic diversity of forests and forest landscapes taking into account increasing anthropogenic impact and impact of climate change; sustainable use of forest resources and strengthening the role of forests in maintaining the biosphere are ensured by the State Program “Belarussian Forest” for 2016–2020 (forestry), State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 – 2020 (nature resources));
- sustainable use of fauna, including fish and hunting resources are envisaged by the State Program “Belarussian Forest” for 2016–2020 (sub-program “Development of hunting”), State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020 (sub-program “Fishery Development”);
- sustainable agriculture, optimization of the structure of cultivated areas, including increase of areas under perennial grasses to 1 million hectares are envisaged by the State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020;
- development of organic farming is ensured by the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 09.09.2018 No. 144-3 "On the production and circulation of organic products". In order to implement the provisions of the Law, an Action Plan was approved, which envisages development of regulatory legal acts and the adoption of other necessary measures for the development of organic agriculture. By the Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of 14.08.2019 No. 39, the technical code of established practice "General rules for the production of organic products" was approved.
- sustainable use of peatlands is envisaged by the Law of the Republic of Belarus dated 18.12.2019 № 272-3 “On the protection and use of peatlands”. This Law establishes the legal basis for the protection of peatlands, the rational (sustainable) use of their resources and is aimed at conservation of swamps, preservation and restoration of the biosphere functions of swamps, satisfaction of the economic and other needs for these resources of present and future generations.
- sustainable development of tourism is envisaged by the State Program on Tourism Development “Belarus Hospitable” for 2016 – 2020, and the State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 – 2020, “A set of measures for the development and promotion of ecological tourism in specially protected natural areas for the period up to 2025”, approved by the Deputy Prime Minister on February 4, 2017 No. 06 / 214-33/94).

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Planned activity
› 1. To enhance the sustainability of hunting, taking into account the conservation of biological diversity in the framework of the implementation of the State program “Belarussian forest” for 2016-2020.
2. To enhance sustainability of fishing, including:
- development and implementation of the State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020 (sub-program “Fishery Development”);
- creation of special fish hatcheries and reproduction complexes for valuable aboriginal fish species, formation of broodstocks of valuable aboriginal fish species;
- creation of the database of valuable fish species' spawning grounds, implementation of fish-rearing ameliorative works aimed at improvement of conditions for fish natural reproduction;
- development and adoption of biotechnical standards for stocking the fishing grounds and sustainable use of fish resources.
3. Improvement of strategic approaches to Forestry development in line with the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources, including:
- phased transfer to forest fund of inefficient agricultural and degraded lands, suitable for afforestation and growing of forests and target tree plantations;
- reforestation and afforestation aimed at increasing of the share of broad-leaved tree species in the total reforestation and afforestation area;

- development of the Action Plan for forestry adaptation to climate change till 2030;
- - forest management and use in line with international criteria of sustainable forest management.
4. Optimisation of structure of agricultural lands to meet the requirements of biodiversity conservation.

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› 1. The State Program “Belarussian Forest” for 2016–2020 has been developed and approved in 2016, which envisages improved mechanisms of hunting development in line with requirements of biodiversity conservation. This had a positive effect and led to population increase of many hunting species. Thus, over the period 2017-2019 the population size of the Elk (Alces alces) has increased from 36,300 to 41,700 individuals, the Red deer (Cervus elaphus) – from 21,500 to 26200 individuals, the Roe deer (Capreolus capreolus) – from 92,800 to 109,200 individuals.
At the same time, in order to prevent the spread of the African swine fever virus, measures were taken to reduce the number of wild boar Sus scrofa. As a result, since 2013, the populations of this species has decreased from 80,400 individuals up to 2,400 individuals.
The development, updating and implementation of management plans for populations of certain animal species (bear, lynx, badger, bison, red deer, elk) are ongoing.
2. Implementation of the subprogram “Fishery Development” of the State program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020 is at the state of completion. Restoration of populations of valuable native fish species is carried out, introduction of fish seed material into fishing grounds is conducted (it is planned to introduce to natural water bodies and water courses 420 million individuals of young fish till 2020). From 8 to 12 native fish species and economic invaders are used for stocking, including globally threatened species – Sterlet and European eel. For a number of species, an economic (zander, wels catfish, pike, carp species) and environmental effect were obtained (after the release of sterlet, the species was recorded in 4 rivers of the Dnieper basin and has spread throughout the Dnieper river within Belarus).
The database of valuable fish species' spawning grounds was created and being updated. Conditions for natural fish reproduction are improved. Fish-rearing ameliorative works were implemented, including restoration of spawning grounds in floodplains of rivers Pripyat, Dnieper, Neman. At the same time, fish catches in the country decreased by 2.75% over 3 years. The drop in catches is primarily associated with a decrease in fish catch in natural reservoirs (commercial catches decreased by 7.7%, amateur catches - by 14.1%), which, in general, has a positive effect on the native ichthyofauna.
3. Due to the implementation of measures taken by the state within the framework of the adopted strategies and programs in the field of forestry development, there are positive changes in the qualitative and quantitative indicators characterizing the state of the forest fund in Belarus: the forest cover of the country from 2017 to 2019 increased from 39.8% to 39.9%, land biomass in forests increased from 150.8 to 153.5 t/ha; the average stock per hectare increased from 205.9 to 208.2 m3/ha.
A gradual transfer to the forest fund of inefficiently used agricultural and degraded lands suitable for growing forests and targeted plantations of trees is ongoing.
There is a tendency to increase the area of the most valuable for the biodiversity conservation high-aged forest ecosystems. The ecologically and phytocenotically most valuable ripe forests account for 1.22 million hectares. The stock of mature stands is 324.9 million m3, the annual average increase in timber is 37.6 million m3, the average stock of stands per hectare of forested land is 217 m3, the average age is 56 years. Nevertheless, there is concern about the decrease in the area of indigenous ash plantations and a significant increase in the area of the soft-leaved group of species.
As a result of purposeful work on the implementation of the principles of sustainable forest management and forest use, a significant increase in the share of non-clear fellings in the total volume of timber harvesting has been achieved: over the past 5 years, it has increased almost 5 times in the forestry enterprises of Belarus. The practice of creating monocultures is decreasing with a significant increase in the share of mixed forest crops and the intensification of measures for natural renewal of fellings. In general, there is an increase in the share of natural methods of forest reproduction in the total volume of reforestation and afforestation.
As of January 1, 2019, 96 Forestries, or 8.3 million hectares of forest fund (98.5% of the whole forest fund of the Ministry of Forestry) have been certified according to FSC standards; and this number has increased by 6.4% in comparison with 2017. Forest management and forest use systems of 93 forestries of the Ministry of Forestry at an area of 8 million ha of the forest fund are PEFC certified (95% of the whole forest fund of the Ministry of forestry). The share of forested areas with long-term management plans is 100% of the total area of forest fund.
In the framework of the UNDP-GEF project “Conservation-oriented management of forests and wetlands to achieve multiple benefits” the principles of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are integrated into the forestry:
- 150,000 hectares of forest biotopes and habitats of endangered species have been declared protected areas and their sustainable management has been organized, ensuring the stability of ecosystem functioning, preserving biodiversity habitats and reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- a system of inventory of rare and typical biotopes in the process of forest inventory was created;
- A targeted inventory of the current state of all drained forest peatlands (260,000 ha) was carried out with

the determination of further directions of their sustainable use; decision making mechanism is used to ensure their restoration and sustainable management;
- In order to organize the protection and sustainable use of forests, an inventory was carried out, passports and protection certificates were prepared, and the biotopes at a total area of 150,000 ha were transferred to land users for protection. The amount, terms and types of felling have been adjusted; measures for the conservation and sustainable management of forests have been developed.
- ecological rehabilitation of 12,456 hectares of degraded, ineffectively drained forest peatlands was carried out, emissions were prevented and the ability of swamps to absorb carbon dioxide was restored.
4. State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020 has been approved in the Republic of Belarus in 2016. The program envisages optimization of the structure of agricultural and cultivated lands to meet biodiversity conservation requirements, including peatlands drained for agriculture.
Among drained agricultural land, the land with peat soils occupies about 1068.2 thousand hectares. As a result of the degradation of the peat layer, 842.3 thousand hectares of meliorated peat soils have been preserved, the rest have lost their genetic characteristics of peat soils and have passed into the category of anthropogenically degraded soils with an organic matter content of less than 50%.
The best solution for the use of land with peat soils is the cultivation of perennial grasses. In Belarus, from 2006 to 2016, there was a constant decrease in the area under crops of perennial grasses: from 935.5 thousand hectares to 757.0 thousand hectares, or by 19%. Since 2017, the situation began to improve: the area under perennial grasses increased from 880.7 thousand hectares in 2017 to 906.1 thousand hectares in 2018 with the prospect of reaching 1 million hectares by 2020. Ineffectively used agricultural land with an area of 58.6 thousand hectares is planned to be transferred to natural overgrowing or waterlogging to ensure the ecological safety of the environment.

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Additional Information

› no comments

Goal 4

Target 15: Regional Initiatives

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.}

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Priority
☑ D=Not relevant

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Resourcing
☑ E=No answer

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - National Targets
› The Republic of Belarus is not a party to the Ramsar Regional Initiatives

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Planned activity
› The Republic of Belarus is not a party to the Ramsar Regional Initiatives

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› The Republic of Belarus is not a party to the Ramsar Regional Initiatives

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Additional Information
› no comments

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use

Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness {4.1}. [Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 18].

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Resourcing

☑ B=Adequate

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - National Targets

› The National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020 envisages the following goal: to raise the awareness of the state agencies and other organizations, including nongovernmental ones and population, about the state and values of biodiversity and measures that should be taken to conserve and use it sustainably.

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Planned activity

› 1. Creation and up-to-date maintenance of the biodiversity sections (pages) on websites of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Regional Executive Committees, Minsk City Executive Committee.
2. Publishing and distribution of biodiversity information materials (booklets, posters, calendars), including those on wetlands conservation issues.
3. Development of a tourism product in protected areas, including Ramsar sites. Preparation and creation of ecological routes, organization of multi-day integrated ecological tours, creation and maintenance of ecological centers, other similar objects in protected areas, including Ramsar sites.
4. Extension of the network of "Green schools".
5. Preparation and conducting of press conferences, thematic briefings, exhibitions on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (dedicated to the World Wetlands Day, International Day for Biological Diversity, World Soil Day, International Bird Day and other environmental dates).

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› 1. The promotion of information on the Ramsar Convention and the wetlands of Belarus in the internet, including the one dedicated to the World Day of wetlands, is provided by the Internet sites of the Ministry of Natural Resources (www.minpriroda.gov.by) and its territorial bodies, the Ministry of Forestry, regional executive committees, public organizations (NGO "APB" - http://ptushki.org, NGO "Bagna" - http://bahna.land, etc.) and public campaigns (https://stope40.org/), individual environmental institutions (www.gpu-ozera.by, etc.) and their groups (www.zakazniki.priroda-vitebsk.by/), as well as scientific and educational organizations (GNPO “Scientific Research Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on Bioresources http://biobel.by/, Institute of Experimental Botany named after V.F. Kuprevich http://botany.by/ and others). Many state nature conservation agencies responsible for management of protected areas, including Ramsar sites, have their own constantly updated accounts in social networks where they directly communicate with visitors.
The new site http://www.itourist.by/ informs about the tourism potential of the Belarusian protected areas. The site wildlife.by tells about both the diversity of wildlife in Belarus and the sustainable use of natural resources by tourists, photographers, hunters and fishermen. Schoolchildren and adults actively use the site "Biodiversity of Belarus" florafauna.by to enter information about the species of plants and animals encountered in different regions of the country, for independent or with the help of experts species identification.
2. The Ministry of Natural Resources, state and public organizations publish periodicals devoted to the problem of biodiversity conservation, including the issues of wetland conservation. An ecological bulletin "State of the Natural Environment of Belarus" is published annually, where a significant place is given to the conservation of flora and fauna; data on the results of environmental monitoring and other aspects related to nature protection are presented.
In order to disseminate knowledge about biological diversity, a specialized journal "Rodnaya Priroda" is published. The print media have permanent columns dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. For example, such sections are available in the state republican newspapers "Respublika" ("Eco-environment", "Nature and We"), "Zvyazda" ("Living Earth", "Eco-School", "Ecology", “Rescue Mission”, "In the world of plants"), "Rural newspaper" ("Open book of nature").
At least 50 types of information materials on biological diversity (booklets, leaflets, posters, calendars) are published and distributed annually. The total circulation of information materials in the country for a 10-year period exceeded 100 thousand copies. Two new bird guides of Belarus were released in 2017 and 2018, which will allow hundreds of newcomers to observe birds in nature.
3. Ecological routes in the Ramsar sites are being prepared and created. Wildlife watching tours, including bird

watching tours, photo hunting and more are offered for tourists. The number of foreign tourists visiting protected areas is increasing every year. This is facilitated by the increased interest abroad in the wild nature of Belarus, as well as the abolition of visas when visiting the country by foreigners (from 2017 - for up to 5 days, from 2018 - up to 30 days).
The distribution of the ecological product is facilitated by the Virtual Tour of the Protected Areas of Belarus, developed by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus in 2018 to promote ecological and green tourism, covering the most significant Ramsar sites (zapovednytur.by). The site is used for educational, environment awareness, educational and tourist purposes, it is available in Belarusian, Russian and English, which makes it especially attractive in terms of expanding the scale of inbound tourism.
In order to organize multi-day complex ecological tours on the basis of organizations conducting forestry and hunting, "Methodological foundations for organizing ecological tours in forest hunting farms" have been developed, as well as methodological materials for organizing and conducting regional tours in all regions of the republic on the territory of 12 forestry enterprises.
Many nature protection agencies are expanding the range of ecotourism services, including information support. Information centers operate in 15 protected areas; 2 of them were established in the last 3 years: in the Pribuzhskoe Polesie reserve (part of the Western Polesie transboundary biosphere reserve (Belarus-Poland-Ukraine), and Svityaziansky reserve. In the framework of a public initiative to preserve spawning grounds for brown trout and Baltic salmon, an information center for the preservation of salmon fish species was opened in the Ostrovets district.
4. The program "Green Schools" is being implemented in the Republic of Belarus; one of its main components is the study and conservation of biodiversity in the school territory. 295 schools participated in this program in 2020. The Green Schools program is included in the official list of extracurricular activities for schoolchildren in Belarus approved by the Ministry of Education.
5. In order to promote environmental knowledge, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, state and public organizations annually organize and conduct at least 10 press conferences, thematic briefings, exhibitions on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including those dedicated to the World Day for Biological Diversity, the World Soil Day, World Wetlands Day, International Bird Day and other dates related to biodiversity conservation.
The government pays special attention to raising awareness of biodiversity in the Republic of Belarus. Period from 2011 to 2020 proclaimed as the Decade of Biological Diversity in the Republic of Belarus with the motto “Life in harmony with nature - the way to the future”. Annual national campaigns that prioritize the solution of any group of problems are in one way or another related to environmental issues.
The Republican Ecological Forum is held annually in the country, the main tasks of which are to consolidate and activate all strata of society in solving problems of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources, maximum involvement of the country's citizens in the environmental movement, increase the ecological culture of the population, promote the principles of sustainable use of natural resources and conservation of biological diversity.
The public organization "Ahova Ptushak Batskashchyny" (BirdLife Belarus) cooperates with Protected Areas through the development of a network of Important Bird Areas (IBA) (55 IBAs have been allocated in the country), and a network of guardians of these territories from local residents, whose number as of 01.10.2018 reached 187 people. In order to promote an active lifestyle through birdwatching, APB organizes birdwatching courses, which by the end of 2018 had completed about 400 people.
A significant contribution to the construction of an effective approach and civil partnership in the implementation of the provisions of the Ramsar Convention is made by the NGO "Bahna" (https://bahna.land/ru), which is engaged in environmental, educational, cultural, informational activities aimed at preserving and sustainable use of wetlands.

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Additional Information

› no comments

Target 17: Financial and other resources

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]

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Priority
☑ B=Medium

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Resourcing
☑ C=Limiting

Target 17: Financial and other resources - National Targets
› There is developed system of strategic planning of finances allocated for environmental measures in Belarus, including for actions on implementation of the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan. Sources of nature conservation activities financing are set in different state, regional and sectoral programs. State programs are financed at the expense of revenues of the consolidated state budget. Regional programs are approved by local councils of deputies and are funded in full or in part from local budgets. Sectoral programs are aimed at the implementation of tasks and functions assigned to the republican government bodies; they can be financed at the expense of the republican budget, local budgets and state extra-budgetary funds.
Sources of environmental activities financing are also loans and grants from international donors, approved by the government as international technical assistance.

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Planned activity
› 1. To ensure financial support to issues of effective implementation of the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024 through their inclusion into state, regional and sectoral planning programs.
2. Elaboration of proposals on raising the international technical assistance for implementation of projects on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› Financial support was provided for measures aimed at effective implementation of 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024 through their inclusion in the governmental, sectoral and regional planning programs.
Measures aimed at implementation of the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan are included in the following state programs:
- State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 – 2020 (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus № 205 dated 17.03.2016) – mitigation of climate change impact, improvement of air and water quality; conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity; maintenance of the national monitoring system, its development and enhancement;
- State Program “Comfortable Accommodation and a Supportive Environment” for 2016 – 2020, sub-program “Clean Water” (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 21.04.2016 № 326) – protection and sustainable use of surface and ground water;
- State Program on Agricultural Business Development for 2016-2020, sub-program 5 “Fishery Development” (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 11.03.2016 № 196) – sustainable use of fish resources;
- State Program “Belarussian Forest” for 2016–2020 (approved by the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus 18.03. 2016 г. № 215) – sustainable use of forest resources and sustainable hunting;
Separate issues of conservation and sustainable use of Ramsar sites (infrastructure development, maintenance of nature conservation organizations, management plans development and other) are included in the regional planning programs.
International technical assistance projects aimed at solving the problems of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands (grants from international donors) for about $ 7.4 million are under implementation.

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Additional Information
› no comments

Target 18: International cooperation

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

Target 18: International cooperation - Priority

☑ A=High

Target 18: International cooperation - Resourcing

☑ B=Adequate

Target 18: International cooperation - National Targets

› To strengthen the international cooperation in the area of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
Belarus has joined the most important environmental conventions and protocols related to wetlands conservation. Multifaceted international cooperation on environmental issues and nature management is being implemented, country representatives participate in the work of intergovernmental organizations and bodies in the field of wetland conservation.
The need to develop international cooperation in the field of biodiversity conservation, including wetlands, is reflected in the country's main strategic documents: National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2020, national strategies aimed at conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity - Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Belarus for 2011-2020; National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030; Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020, Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Target 18: International cooperation - Planned activity

› 1. Compliance with obligations under international agreements in the field of environmental protection and rational nature use.
2. Expansion of the international cooperation in the field of environmental protection and nature use.
3. Extension of a network of Ramsar sites, other protected areas important for wetlands conservation.
4. Development and implementation of management plans for transboundary Ramsar sites.
5. Inclusion of natural areas of the Republic of Belarus, approved by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, into the Emerald network.
6. Interstate cooperation on transboundary wetlands, including development of interstate and national legal documents on monitoring of contamination, implementation of international projects aimed at development of complex management schemes for water resources in basins of Dnieper, Western Bug, Western Dvina and Neman rivers.
7. Improvement of standards in the field of surface waters quality and bringing them in line with international requirements.
8. Participation of representatives of the Republic of Belarus in events, organized in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international agreements of the Republic of Belarus.

Target 18: International cooperation - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› In accordance with bilateral agreements, Belarus cooperates with neighboring countries on issues of common transboundary water resources. In accordance with an agreement with the Russian Federation, a joint Belarusian-Russian commission on transboundary waters of the Dnieper and Western Dvina river basins is working; an agreement is in force with Ukraine on the joint use and protection of transboundary waters in the river basins of the Dnieper, Pripyat and Western Bug rivers; with Poland - an agreement on the river Western Bug. Issues related to transboundary cooperation on water bodies are included in the environmental protection agreements between Belarus and Latvia regarding the Western Dvina River. An inter-ministerial Belarusian-Lithuanian technical protocol on cooperation in the field of protection and use of water resources of the transboundary basin of the Neman River has been developed and is in effect. In accordance with the provisions of the relevant agreements, Belarus and neighboring countries exchange hydrological data and information on water quality, agree on measures for the protection and use of water resources and coordinate actions to mitigate the consequences of floods and other emergencies.
The exchange of experience in mire management between the Belarusian Ramsar sites "Zvanets", "Sporovsky Biological Reserve", "Olmany Mires Zakaznik" with the wetlands of Poland ("Biebrza"), Lithuania ("Zhuvintas", "Neman Delta"), Ukraine ("Shatsk National Park"), Russia, Germany and other countries. Wetland conservation issues are discussed at meetings of experts, managers of Ramsar sites at the annual meetings of the Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team.
There is cooperation in the management of the transboundary Ramsar sites "Olmany – Perebrody Mires" and "Stokhid - Prypiat - Prostyr" (Belarus - Ukraine), "Kotra - Cepkeliai" (Belarus - Lithuania), the transboundary biosphere reserve "Western Polesie" (Belarus - Ukraine - Poland), the transboundary protected area "Zapovednoe Poozerye" including republican reserves "Osveiski" and "Krasny Bor" (Belarus) and the National Park "Sebezhsky" (Russia).

Joint meetings of the Ramsar Councils of Belarus and Lithuania are being held.
Participation of representatives of the Republic of Belarus in events held in the framework of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention was ensured.
A number of international projects aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of Ramsar sites have been implemented or are ongoing in the Republic of Belarus from 2018 to 2020. The most important of them are:
- GEF-UNDP project “Conservation-oriented management of forests and wetlands to achieve multiple benefits” (“Wetlands”) № 96096 (2017-2021);
- The European Union project LIFEMagniDucatusAcrola LIFE15NAT/LT/001024 “Stepping stones towards ensuring long-term favourable conservation status of Aquatic warbler” (Belarus – Lithuania, 2017 – 2023);
- The European Union project “Create opportunities and conditions for joint management and sustainable use of natural resources of the Transboundary Ramsar Site Olmany – Perebrody Mires” (Belarus – Ukraine, 2017-2018);
- The European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership (EUWI+) (2016-2020);
- The project "Restoration of drained peatlands in Belarus" (1st and 2nd phases) under the agreement between the Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the Green Economy with financial support from the Forest Service of the Republic of Korea under the Changwon Initiative (2018-2022);
- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) "Assistance in the preparation of the Sixth National Report on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)" CBD6NR/SSFA/2017/Ecosystems/017 (2018-2019);
- "Environmental project for Belovezhskaya Pushcha" (2013-2023) with financial support from the Frankfurt Zoological Society;
- The European Union project “Together for Community and Nature: Strengthening the Development Process in Miory Region through Partnerships between Local Authorities and Civil Society” (2019-2022);
- Project "Polesie - Wildlife Without Borders: Protection of One of the Largest Natural Landscapes in Europe" (2019-2023). Frankfurt Zoological Society;
- Project “River Bug Valley: Integration of the Ramsar Approach with other Spatial Forms of Protection (IBA, International Biosphere Reserve, Republican Landscape Reserve)” (2012-2020), donor: Ramsar Secretariat, Switzerland;
- Project "Conservation of salmon species and European eel in Belarus" with financial support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) through the Clean Baltic Coalition (CER), (2019-2020).

Target 18: International cooperation - Additional Information

› no comments

Target 19: Capacity Building

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

Target 19: Capacity Building - Priority
☑ B=Medium

Target 19: Capacity Building - Resourcing
☑ C=Limiting

Target 19: Capacity Building - National Targets
› To enhance capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 among state agencies and other organizations, including non-governmental ones, with the active involvement of wetland managers and users.

Target 19: Capacity Building - Planned activity
› 1. To develop and implement the main strategic documents and action plans aimed at effective implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016 – 2024.
2. To ensure effective work of the Cross-sectoral Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention under the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus.
3. Training of personnel, including employees of state nature conservation agencies, on issues of implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016 – 2024.
4. Publication of educational and methodological manuals on the protection and sustainable use of wetlands.
5. Conducting of conferences, seminars, round tables on issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including wetlands.
6. Creation of infrastructure, purchases of machinery and equipment necessary for effective conservation activities in the territory of Ramsar sites.
7. Development of volunteering and involvement of volunteers, stakeholders' representatives in decision making on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Target 19: Capacity Building - Outcomes achieved by 2021

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021
› In order to enhance capacity building for implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024, the main strategies and plans have been updated: National Strategy and Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2016–2020, Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2021-2025, National Strategy for the Development of the Network of Specially Protected Natural Areas till January 1, 2030 and Scheme of Rational Allocation of Specially Protected Areas of Republican Importance till January, 1, 2025, Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2020, Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, National Action Plan on the Prevention of Land Degradation (including Soils) for 2016-2020. Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands and Scheme of Peatlands Distribution According to Their Use until 2030 were developed and approved.
Over the period 2018 - 2020, the Cross-sectoral Coordination Council did not meet, the planned meeting in 2020 was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Personnel training according to the program “Nature Conservation and Touristic Activities on Protected Areas”is conducted on the basis of the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Environment. Almost all heads of state nature conservation agencies (Ramsar sites management units) have been trained at the national and regional levels on biodiversity conservation issues, including those related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the Fourth Strategic Plan for 2016-2024. Directors of Ramsar sites management units participate in special meetings at the Ministry of Natural Resources and other workshops with participation of the experts of the Academy of Sciences on wetlands management, ecotourism development and involvement of local population to the management.
Ramsar sites’ technical capacity building is enhanced within the framework of the State Program “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Nature Resources” for 2016 – 2020, international projects and programs: informational centers have been equipped in Ramsar sites Yelnia and Polesye Valley of River Bug; new ecological trails have been created in Ramsar sites Yelnia, Zvanets, Vigonoshchanskoe, Vydritsa and other; ecological tourism facilities are being equipped in Ramsar sites Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve, Sporovsky Biological Reserve, Zvanets, Osveiski, Vydritsa, Olmany Mires Zakaznik, Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik, Krasnyi Bor reserve; historical and ethnographic complex “Open Air Museum” has been built in the Pripyatsky National Park Ramsar site; special machinery for management of the Ramsar sites Sporovsky Biological Reserve and Zvanets and other equipment were purchased.

Target 19: Capacity Building - Additional Information
› no comments

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

Guidance for filling in this section

1. Contracting Parties can provide additional information specific to any or all of their designated Ramsar Sites.
2. The only indicator questions included in this section are those from Section 3 of the COP14 NRF which directly concern Ramsar Sites.
3. In some cases, to make them meaningful in the context of reporting on each Ramsar Site separately, some of these indicator questions and/or their answer options have been adjusted from their formulation in Section 3 of the COP14 NRF.
4. Please include information on only one site in each row. In the appropriate columns please add the name and official site number (from the Ramsar Sites Information Service).
5. For each 'indicator question', please select one answer from the legend.
6. A final column of this Annex is provided as a 'free text' box for the inclusion of any additional information concerning the Ramsar Site.

A final column of this Annex is provided as a 'free text' box for the inclusion of any additional information concerning the Ramsar Site.

Belarus

Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve (1927)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ A=Yes

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ A=Yes

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ C=Partially

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The Ramsar site Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve is fully coincides with borders of the same-named National Protected area. The Ramsar site is included in the World Network of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves "Man and the Biosphere" Program. It is a member of the international organization Wetland Link International and the World Network of Wetland Education Centers - Wetland Link International (WLI), which aims to improve the dissemination of knowledge about wetlands and a better understanding of the global importance of these ecosystems.
The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
- The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network";
• The area and regime of the Reserve have been revised taking into account the conservation of wetlands: the

area of the Reserve has increased by 880 ha and constitutes 86072.8 ha;
• The European Diploma for Protected Areas has been renewed until 2030.
The Scientific-technical Council was established for coordination of scientific and production activities of the Reserve. The Council includes the main specialists of the Reserve, as well as representatives of Ministries involved and scientific-research institutes of the National Academy of Sciences.
The separate State Nature Conservation Agency was established and the Management Plan was elaborated for management of the Reserve, including wetlands. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Coordination Council. Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.
Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was partially conducted during elaboration of the management plan of the Reserve.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Reserve as its Section (“Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”) and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Reserve, taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”) and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.
Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agency in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agency is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
Information about wetlands can be easily obtained and exchanged due to information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website for the Clearing House mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE Bel Research Center Ecology "Http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others). On the basis of the Berezinsky reserve, advanced training courses are held for managers and specialists of the State Nature Conservation Agencies under the program "Organization of environmental and tourist activities in protected areas."
Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website of the Berezinsky Reserve https://www.berezinsky.by/.

Dikoe Fen Mire (2263)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ A=Yes

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ A=Yes

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar

Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period :
• The site as a part of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network";
• As part of the implementation of the international project "Environmental project for the Belovezhskaya Pushcha" in 2019, the hydrological regime of the Dikoe mire was restored on an area of 330 hectares.
• An open-air Archaeological Museum has been established in the National Park.
The Ramsar site Dikoe Fen Mire is part of the National Park Belovezhskaya Pushcha. The Scientific-technical Council was established for coordination of scientific and production activities of the Belovezhskaya Puscha National Park. The Council includes the main specialists of the National Park, as well as representatives of the involved Ministries and scientific-research institutes of the Academy of Sciences.
The National Park is managed by the separate State Nature Conservation Agency and Management Plan was elaborated for management of the National Park, including wetlands. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are discussed on meetings of the Scientific-technical Council.
Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the National Park Belovezhskaya Pushcha (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the National Park (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”). There is a museum of folk life in the National Park.
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.
In order to facilitate the participation of stakeholders, especially the local population, in the management of the Ramsar Territory, the Scientific and Technical Council of the National Park includes representatives of public associations that declare environmental goals, municipalities and local residents.
Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agency in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agency is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
Information about wetlands can be easily obtained and exchanged due to information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website for the Clearing House mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE Bel Research Center Ecology "Http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others).
Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website of the National Park Belovezhskaya Pushcha https://npbp.by/.

Dnieper River Floodplain (2244)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ B=No

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?

☑ Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ B=No

Any additional comments/information about the site
› Management Plan for the Ramsar site Dnieper River Floodplain has not been elaborated; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been partially considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site.
Cultural value of the wetland has been considered only during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site.
The Nature Conservation Agency for the management of the Ramsar site was not established.

Drozbitka-Svina (2261)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ B=No

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ C=Partially

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ B=No

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main activities implemented over the reporting period:
• based on the Resolution of the Ministry of Natural Resources of 07.09.2020 No. 18, the Ramsar site is included in a list of wetlands for which management plans are being developed;
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network".
Management Plan for the Ramsar site Drozbitka-Svina has not been elaborated; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.
Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was conducted in the frameworks of the scientific-technical-economic justification for the designation of the National Protected Area.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section "Social and economic potential").
Cultural value of the wetland has been taken into account during preparation of nomination application form

for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
There is no management agency for the Ramsar site.

Duleby Islands-Zaozerye (2138)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ C=Partially

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ B=No

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
- The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network" ;
- the ecological and ethnographic festival "Duleby Islands” was conducted in 2019.
Management plan for the Ramsar site Duleby Islands-Zaozarye was elaborated in 2016. National assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management is planned to be started in 2021 as a part of reporting on implementation of the Management plan.
Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.
Assessment of the ecosystem benefits/services was conducted during development of the Management plan for the protected area.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plans for the Protected areas “Duleby Islands” and “Zaozerie” (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Areas (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.
There is no management agency for the Ramsae site.

Golubickaya Puscha (2266)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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

☑ B=No

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ B=No

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
- The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network".
The Management Plan for the Ramsar site was not elaborated, and management agency was not established. Socio-economic values of the wetland have been partially considered during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”). Cultural value of the wetland has been taken into account during prepara-tion of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).

Iput River Floodplain (2262)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ B=No

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ B=No

Any additional comments/information about the site

› The main actions implemented over the reporting period :
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the national value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network".
Management Plan for the Ramsar site Iput River Floodplain has not been elaborated; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been considered during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section "Sopcio-economic potential"). Cultural value of the wetland has been taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
There is no nature conservation agency for the management of the protected area.

Kotra (1216)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ A=Yes

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The Ramsar site is a part of transboundary Ramsar site “Kotra-Cepkeliai” (Belarus – Lithuania).
The main activities implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network".
The Ramsar site Kotra is included in the Landscape Reserve of the Republican value Kotra. The State Nature Conservation Agency was established for management of the Protected Area. The Management Plan was elaborated for management of the
protected area, including wetlands, and was approved by the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus.
Evaluation of management efficiency is carried out during reporting on the implementation of the management plan and is submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources. Implementation of the Management Plan is recognized as satisfactory. Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scien-tific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Sec-tion “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Man-agement Plans for the national

protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with par-ticipation of stakeholders, including local population.
Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency "Kotra Republican Lsandscape Reserve" and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agency in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agency is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
Information about wetlands can be easily obtained and exchanged due to information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website for the Clearing House mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE Bel Research Center Ecology "Http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others).
Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website http://zakaznik-kotra.wix.com/kotra.

Kozyansky (2196)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ C=Partially

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period :
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network";
• The Protected area has been reorganized in 2019 taking into account the preservation of the wetland; its borders, the regime of protection and use were changed.
The Ramsar site Kozyansky is included in the Landscape Reserve of the Republican value Kozyansky, which is managed by a separate State Nature Conservation Agency. The Management plan for the Reserve was elaborated taking into account values of wetlands and was approved with the Ministry of Nature Resources. The management efficiency is assessed during the reporting on the implementation of the Management Plan and the assessment is submitted to the Ministry of Nature Resources. The implementation of the Management Plan is recognized as satisfactory. Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.
Assessment of ecosystem benefits was partially made during the development of the Management Plan for the Protected Area.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development

of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.
Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agency in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agency is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
Information about wetlands can be easily obtained and exchanged due to information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website for the Clearing House mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE Bel Research Center Ecology "Http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others).
Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website http://shumilino.vitebsk-region.gov.by/ru/kazjan12-ru/.

Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik (1090)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ A=Yes

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main activities implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network".
• Within the frameworks of the “Wetlands” project, sustainable management of floodplain meadows has been demonstrated at an area of 560 ha in the Prypiat River floodplain (Turov Meadow, Pogost, which are the largest in Europe concentration places of migrating waders): removal of reeds and shrubs, mowing, grazing, introduction of aurochs-like cattle.
Ramsar site Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik is included in the same-named Wetland Reserve, which is managed by three State Nature Conservation Agencies established according to territorial and administrative principles: State Nature Conservation Agency “Landscape reserves of republican value Mid-Pripyat and Prostyr” (Pinsk district); Agency “Reserves of republican value Mid-Pripyat and Luninsky” (Luninetsky district); Agency “Reserves of republican importance Mid-Pripyat and Olmany Mires” (Stolin district). The Management Plan was elaborated for management of the Protected area, including wetlands, and was approved by the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agencies on implementation of management plans are submitted to the Ministry of Nature Resources. Implementation of the Management plan is recognized as satisfactory. It is planned to revise the Management plan in 2021.
Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was

not conducted over the reporting period.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population. In addition, the local population participates in the management of the Ramsar site through the local environmental fund “Zakazniki of the Brest region”.
Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agencies managing the Reserve and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agencies in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agencies is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
Information about wetlands can be easily obtained and exchanged due to information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website for the Clearing House mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE Bel Research Center Ecology "Http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others).
Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website http://www.zpp.by/, https://zaklun.by/en/, http://zakaznikistolin.by/en/home/.

Morochno (2139)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ A=Yes

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ B=No

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period :
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network";
• based on the Resolution of the Ministry of Natural Resources of 07.09.2020 No. 18, the Ramsar site is included in a list of wetlands for which management plans are being developed.
Ramsar site Morochno is included in the same-named Wetland Reserve. The Management Plan was elaborated for the Reserve, including wetlands. METT assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management was

conducted in 2017. The emanagement efficiency was recognized as satisfactory.
Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was partially conducted in the frameworks of the scientific-technical-economic justification for the designation of the National Protected Area.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.
There is no Nature Conservation Agency for management of the site.

Olmany Mires Zakaznik (1091)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ A=Yes

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ A=Yes

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ C=Partially

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The Olmany Mires Protected area is a part of the transboundary Ramsar site Olmany - Perebrody Mires (Belarus - Ukraine).
The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network";
• the project of the European Union “Creation of opportunities and conditions for joint management and sustainable use of natural resources of the transboundary Ramsar site “Olmany – Perebrody mires” (Belarus - Ukraine) was implemented: a Coordination Council of the transboundary Ramsar site was created, a joint management plan was developed, comprehensive scientific research was carried out, a joint environmental monitoring system was established, an information and educational center for protected areas was equipped;
• The protected area Olmany mires has been reorganized taking into account wetlands conservation. Justification for the expansion of the borders of the Republican protected area and Ramsar site “Olmany Mires” was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Nature Resources. It is planned to expand the area to 103,510 ha (the former area is 94,219 ha);
• Ecological “Cranberry festival” was conducted in 2019.
Ramsar site Olmany Mires Zakaznik is included in the same-named Landscape Reserve of Republican Importance, which is managed by a separate State Nature Conservation Agency. The Management Plan was elaborated for management of the Protected area, including wetlands.
METT assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management was conducted in 2016. The management

efficiency was recognized as satisfactory.
Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was partially conducted in the frameworks of the scientific-technical-economic justification for the designation of the National Protected Area.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”). The environmental "Cranberry Festival" is conducted here.
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population. In addition, the local population participates in the management of the Ramsar site through the local environmental fund “Reserves of the Brest Region”.
Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agency in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agency is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
Information about wetlands can be easily obtained and exchanged due to information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website for the Clearing House mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE Bel Research Center Ecology "Http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others).
Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website http://stolin.brest-region.gov.by/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=22733%3A-l-l-r-l-r&catid=380%3A2010-10-20-13-26-19&Itemid=692&lang=ru

Osveiski (1217)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ A=Yes

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network";
• Biosphere Reserve “Osveiski – Krasnyi Bor” was established on the basis of the Ramsar site; transboundary

protected area “Zapovednoe Poozerie” was established including republican re-serves “Osveiski” and “Krasnyi Bor” (Belarus) and National Park “Sebezhski” (Russia);
• Ecological festival “Osveiskie rosy” was conducted in 2018;
• due to state-private partnership in 2020, a visit center with a hotel was created on the shore of the Osveyskoye Lake.
Ramsar site Osveiski is included in the same-named Landscape Reserve of Republican importance; for its management the separate State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Management Plan was elaborated for management of the Protected area, including wetlands. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agency on implementation of the management plan are submitted to the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus. The management efficiency was recognized as satisfactory.
Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.
Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was partially conducted in the frameworks of the scientific-technical-economic justification for the designation of the National Protected Area.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.
Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agency in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agency is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
Information about wetlands can be easily obtained and exchanged due to information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website for the Clearing House mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE Bel Research Center Ecology "Http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others).
Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website http://verkhnedvinsk.vitebsk-region.gov.by/ru/osvejskij/

Podvelikiy Moh (2267)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ B=No

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

☑ B=No

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network";
• based on the Resolution of the Ministry of Natural Resources of 07.09.2020 No. 18, the Ramsar site is included in a list of wetlands for which management plans are being developed.
Management Plan for the Ramsar site Podvelikiy Moh has not been elaborated; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
There is no Nature Conservation Agency for management of the site.

Polesye Valley of River Bug (2252)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ A=Yes

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ C=Partially

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The Ramsar site is a part of National Biosphere Reserve “Pribuzhskoe Polesie” and interna-tional transboundary biosphere reserve “Western Polesie”, established on the border of Belarus, Po-land and Ukraine.
The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network";
• The protected area has been reorganized in 2018 taking into account the necessity of wetlands conservation. The protected area’s border, protection and use regime have been changed. The area increased from 8000 to 17200 ha.
Part of the Ramsar site Polesye Valley of River Bug is included in the Landscape Reserve of Republican importance “Pribuzhskoe Polesie”, for which management the State Nature Conservation Agency was established.
The Management Plan was elaborated for the Landscape Reserve, including wetlands. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agency on implementation of the management plan are submitted to the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus. The management efficiency was recognized as satisfactory. Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over

the reporting period.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area "Pribuzhskoe Polesie" (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”) and international transboundary biosphere reserve “Western Polesie”.
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area "Pribuzhskoe Polesie", taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”) and international transboundary biosphere reserve “Western Polesie”.
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population. In addition, the local population participates in the management of the Ramsar site through the local environmental fund “Reserves of the Brest Region”.
Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agency in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agency is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
Information about wetlands can be easily obtained and exchanged due to information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website for the Clearing House mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE Bel Research Center Ecology "Http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others).
Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website http://brpp.by.

Pripyatsky National Park (2197)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ A=Yes

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ A=Yes

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network";
• the borders have been defined and public discussion has been conducted for creation of the biosphere reserve, which core is National Park Pripyatsky;
• as a part of the international project “Polesie – wild nature without borders: protection of one of the largest natural landscapes in Europe” the management plan for the National Park Pripyatsky was revised and

updated.
The Ramsar site Pripyatsky National Park is included in the same-named National Park, for which management the State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Scientific-technical Council was established for coordination of scientific and production activities of the National Park Pripyatsky. The Council includes the main specialists of the Reserve, as well as representatives of Ministries involved and scientific-research institutes of the Academy of Sciences.
The Management Plan was elaborated for the National Park, including wetlands (it is planned to revise the management plan in 2021-2022). Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agency on implementation of the management plan are submitted to the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus. The management efficiency was recognized as satisfactory. Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”). In order to get acquainted with the culture of Polesie, the historical and cultural complex "Museum in the open air" operates in the National Park, where the traditions and history of Polesie, folk crafts (blacksmithing, pottery, straw weaving, weaving, bonding and weaving, etc.) are presented.
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population. In order to facilitate the participation of stakeholders, especially the local population, in the management of the Ramsar Territory, the Scientific and Technical Council of the National Park includes representatives of public associations that declare environmental goals, municipalities and local residents.
Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agency in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agency is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
Information about wetlands can be easily obtained and exchanged due to information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website for the Clearing House mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE Bel Research Center Ecology "Http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others).
Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website https://www.npp.by/.

Prostyr (1611)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ B=No

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ C=Partially

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar

Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› Ramsar site Prostyr is a part of transboundary Ramsar site “Stokhid-Prypiat-Prostyr” (Belarus-Ukraine).
The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network".
The Ramsar site Prostyr is included in the same-named Republican Reserve, managed by the State Nature Conservation Agency "Landscape reserves of republican importance Mid-Pripyat and Prostyr" (Pinsk district).
The Management Plan for the Ramsar site Prostyr has been elaborated (it is planned to be updated in 2021); assessment of the management efficiency has not been conducted.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”) and international transboundary Ramsar site.
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population. In addition, the local population participates in the management of the Ramsar site through the local environmental fund “Reserves of the Brest Region”.
Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agency in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agency is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
Information about wetlands can be easily obtained and exchanged due to information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website for the Clearing House mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE Bel Research Center Ecology "Http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others).
Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website http://www.zpp.by/.

Servech (2250)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ A=Yes

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ C=Partially

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar

Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network";
• The protected area has been reorganized in 2019 taking into account the necessity of wetlands conservation. The protected area's border, protection and use regime have been changed;
• As a part of the project LIFE15 NAT/LT/001024 "Stepping stones towards ensuring long-term favourable conservation status of Aquatic warbler", management of vegetation succes-sion has been conducted in 2018 and 2020: removal of shrubs and reeds at an area of 180 ha. The project on regulation of the groundwater level in the Ramsar site was implemented in 2020.
Ramsar site Servech is included in the same-named Hydrological Reserve. The Management Plan was elaborated in 2017 for management of the Protected area, including wetlands. In 2018 the management plan has been approved. National assessment of the Ramsar site management efficiency is planned as a part of the report on implementation of the management plan. METT assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management was conducted in 2017.
Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was partially conducted in the frameworks of the development of the Management plan for the Protected Area.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section "Socio-economic and historical and cultural information"), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section "Socio-economic potential").
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section "Historical and cultural attractions"), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section "Social and cultural value of the site"), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section "Historical and cultural potential").
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.
There is no Nature Conservation Agency for management of the site.

Sporovsky Biological Reserve (1007)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ A=Yes

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the

Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network";
• During the period 2017-2020 the actions of the project UNDP-GEF “Wetlands” were implemented on the territory of the Ramsar site: economically sustainable methods of use and processing of mire vegetation biomass (shrubs, reed, other mire grass) have been introduced at an area of 3,200 ha, contributing to restoration and maintaining of open fen mires. The equipment and machinery necessary for sustainable and cost-effective mowing and processing of reeds, shrubs and herbaceous vegetation were purchased. The population size of the Great Spotted Eagle and Aquatic Warbler was stabilized due to implemented measures on management of the fen mire ecosystem;
• As a part of the project “Landscape-oriented development of rural areas of the Yaselda river valley with the participation of the local population” the measures were imple-mented on development of private initiatives for sustainable use of biodiversity in the region, including territory of the Ramsar site;
• the eco-festival "Sporovskie hayfields" is held annually.
The Ramsar site Sporovsky Biological Reserve is included in the same-named Reserve of Republican Importance, for which management the State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Management Plan was elaborated for the Reserve, including wetlands (it is planned to revise and update the management plan in 2021). Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agency on implementation of the management plan are submitted to the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus. The management efficiency was recognized as satisfactory. METT assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management was conducted in 2016.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.
Support and implementation of local initiatives that use the natural potential of the Ramsar site is carried out through the local environmental funds “Reserves of the Brest Region” and the ecoregion “Valley of the Yaselda River”. Currently, with their participation the European Union project "Landscape-oriented development of rural areas of the Yaselda river valley with the partici-pation of the local population" is being implemented in the framework of the European initiative "Assistance in capacity building and partnership between civil society and local authorities in Bela-rus" 2019-2021.
Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agency in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agency is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
Information about wetlands can be easily obtained and exchanged due to information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website for the Clearing House mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE Bel Research Center Ecology "Http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others).
Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website http://sporava.by/index.php.

Stary Zhaden (2140)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ B=No

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ C=Partially

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ C=Partially

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ C=Partially

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network".
Management Plan for the Ramsar site Stary Zhaden has been elaborated; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.
Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was partially conducted in the frameworks of the devel-opment of the Management Plan.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.
There is no Nature Conservation Agency for management of the site.

Svislochsko-Berezinskiy (2268)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ B=No

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the

Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network".
Management Plan for the Ramsar site has not been elaborated; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
There is no Nature Conservation Agency for management of the site.

Vigonoshchanskoe (2141)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ A=Yes

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network".
Ramsar site Vigonoshchanskoe is included in the same-named Landscape Reserve of Republican importance, for which management the State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Management Plan was elaborated for the Protected area, including wetlands. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agency on implementation of the management plan are submitted to the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus. The management efficiency was recognized as satisfactory. Assessment of the effectiveness of the Ramsar site management with METT form and Resolution XII.15 was not conducted over the reporting period.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population. Support and implementation of local initiatives that use the natural potential of the Ramsar site is carried out through the local environmental funds “Reserves of the Brest Region”.

Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agency in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agency is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
Information about wetlands can be easily obtained and exchanged due to information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website for the Clearing House mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE Bel Research Center Ecology "Http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others).
Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website Vygon.by.

Vileity (2251)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ B=No

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ Z=No Management Plan

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ B=No

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The Ramsar site is a part of Belarus - Lithuania transboundary Ramsar site Adutiskis-Vileity.
The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the regional value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network".
Management Plan for the Ramsar site Vileity has not been elaborated; assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, for designation of the Belarus-Lithuania transboundary Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
There is no Nature Conservation Agency for management of the site.

Vydritsa (2195)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ B=No

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ Z=No Management Plan

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ C=Partially

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network";
• The protected area has been reorganized in 2019 taking into account the necessity of wetlands conservation. The protected area's border, protection and use regime have been changed;
• the modernization of recreation and tourism facilities, including the "Urechye" eco-tourist center, was carried out in 2020, and an additional 1 ecological path was created.
Ramsar site Vydritsa is included in the same-named Landscape Reserve of Republican importance, for which management the State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Management Plan was not elaborated (it is planned to be developed in 2021 - 2022). Assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has not been made.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section "Socio-economic potential").
Cultural value of the wetland has been taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section "Social and cultural value of the site"), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section "Historical and cultural potential").
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.
Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agency in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agency is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
Information about wetlands can be easily obtained and exchanged due to information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website for the Clearing House mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE Bel Research Center Ecology "Http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others).
Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website https://zakaznik-vydritsa.by/.

Yelnia (1218)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ A=Yes

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ C=Partially

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network";
• The eco festival “Cranes and cranberries of the Miory region” was carried out in 2018, 2019 and 2020;
• the project of the European Union “Together for the community and nature: strengthening the development process in the Miory region through the partnership of local authorities and civil society” (2019-2022), aimed at the development of basic infrastructure, social and environmental facilities of the Yelnya reserve " is under implementation.
Ramsar site Yelnia is included in the same-named Landscape Reserve of Republican importance, for which management the State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Management Plan was elaborated and approved for the Protected area, including wetlands. Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agency on implementation of the management plan are submitted to the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus. METT assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management was conducted in 2017. The management efficiency was recognized as satisfactory.
Assessment of the ecosystem benefits was partially conducted in the frameworks of the development of the Management Plan for the protected area.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population.
Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agency in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agency is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
Information about wetlands can be easily obtained and exchanged due to information resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources, its subordinate organizations and research institutes (the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources www.minpriroda.gov.by, the website for the Clearing House mechanism http://biodiv.by/, the website of the RUE Bel Research Center Ecology "Http://www.ecoinfo.by/ and others).
Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website https://miory.vitebsk-region.gov.by/ru/zakaznik-elnya/

Zvanets (1219)

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with eitheraformal 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
☑ A=Yes

5.7 Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
☑ B=No

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
☑ B=No

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.3a Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
☑ A=Yes

16.6a Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?
☑ A=Yes

Any additional comments/information about the site
› The main actions implemented over the reporting period:
• The site is designated as the core of the ecological network of the European value in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus 13.03.2018 No. 108 "On approval of the Scheme of the national ecological network";
• Measures of the project UNDP-GEF “Wetlands” have been implemented on the territory of the Ramsar site from 2017 till 2020. The following results have been achieved: - population size of the Greater Spotted Eagle and Aquatic Warbler within the site has been stabilized due to implementation of measures on management of the fen mire ecosystem; - economically sustainable methods of use and processing of the mire vegetation biomass have been introduced, equipment and machinery was procured for sustainable and cost-effective mowing and processing of reed, shrubs and grass vegetation. There is annual mowing, removal of shrubs and reeds at an area of about 1000 ha; - works on optimization of the hydrological regime of the fen mire have been conducted.
• Measures of the project LIFE15 NAT/LT/001024 “Stepping stones towards ensuring long-term favourable conservation status of Aquatic warbler” have been implemented on the terri-tory of the Ramsar site from 2018 till 2020: - removal of shrubs and reeds at an area of 760 ha; - works have been implemented on translocation of 100 individuals of the Aquatic Warbler to the Zhuvintas Reserve in Lithuania; - the ecological trail in the fen mire with an observation tower was established.
The Ramsar site Zvanets is included in the same-named Landscape Reserve of Republican Importance, for which management the State Nature Conservation Agency was established. The Management Plan was elaborated for the Reserve, including wetlands (the revision and update of the management plan is planned for 2021). Reports of the State Nature Conservation Agency on implementation of the management plan are submitted to the Ministry of Nature Resources of Belarus.
METT assessment of effectiveness of the Ramsar site management was conducted in 2017. The management efficiency was recognized as satisfactory.
Socio-economic values of the wetland have been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Socio-economic and historical and cultural information”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site, as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Socio-economic potential”).
Cultural value of the wetland has been included in the Management Plan for the Protected area (Section “Historical and cultural attractions”), taken into account during preparation of nomination application form for designation of the Ramsar site (Section “Social and cultural value of the site”), as well as during development of scientific and technical-economic grounds for designation of the Protected Area (Section “Historical and cultural potential”).
According to the Environmental Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Management Plans for the national protected areas are objects of public ecological expertize and should pass through the procedure of public discussions with participation of stakeholders, including local population. In addition, the local population participates in the management of the Ramsar site through the local environmental fund “Reserves of the Brest Region”.
Information sharing between the Administration of the State Nature Conservation Agency and Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is implemented through participation of directors and specialists of the agency in the work of the Inderdisciplinary Coordination

Council on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention, through the participation in the workshops of the Ministry of Nature Resources, its local bodies and subordinate organizations. Training for the heads and employees of the State Nature Conservation Agency is carried out at the Republican Center for Advanced Training of the Ministry of Natural Resources (http://www.oos.by/).
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Information about the Ramsar site is presented on the official website http://drogichin.brest-region.gov.by/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17329%3A-lr&catid=410%3A2010-10-29-09-28-26&Itemid=818&lang=ru