

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)

> Albania

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Signed Z.Dedej Letter of submission COP14.pdf](#)

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority

> National Agency of Protected Areas

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

> Zamir Dedej, General Director

Mailing address

> Boulevard "Deshmoret e Kombit", Skenderbej Square, No. 1, Tirana, Albania

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Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title

> Zamir Dedej, General Director

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

Name and title

> -

Name of organisation

> -

Mailing address

> -

Telephone/Fax

> -

Email

> -

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

Name and title

> -

Name of organisation

> -

Mailing address

> -

Telephone/Fax

> -

Email

> -

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

Name and title

> -

Name of organisation

> -

Mailing address

> -

Telephone/Fax

> -

Email

> -

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)
 - › Organization of IWWB Census every year in all Albanian wetlands territories
- 2)
 - › Protection from illegal hunting (It's still in force the Hunting moratorium) (based on Protected Areas Law, the hunting in PA territories is ban)
- 3)
 - › Development of tourism infrastructure (visitor centers, itineraries, watching tower, etc)
- 4)
 - › A raised number of bird species due to improvement of monitoring
- 5)
 - › The Revision of the system of protected areas and drafting of the respective DCMs for approval

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

- 1)
 - › Management of the wetland areas based on the Ramsar principles
- 2)
 - › Implementation of sustainable fishery activities particularly in the coastal areas
- 3)
 - › The management of water exchange between the lagoons and the sea (the entry channels maintenance and management)
- 4)
 - › Solid waste management
- 5)
 - › Waste water control

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

- 1)
 - › Protection of the wetlands area in general
- 2)
 - › Developing sustainable tourism activities, in terms of ecotourism development and promotion
- 3)
 - › Regulation of fishing activities toward a sustainable fishery in the coastal wetlands
- 4)
 - › Resolving the solid waste management
- 5)
 - › Drafting of new management plans for all protected areas, according to the new system of PAs

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

› No

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

› Support the drafting of new management plans for Ramsar sites.

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

> Better coordination between the main bodies of the Conventions and 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?

> With the establishment of the National Water Resources Agency in Albania the coordination is easier, also in view of the National Water Resources Management Strategy 2018-2027, that has been approved with the DCM no. 73, date 07.02.2018 and the management plans of water basins that are being drafted.

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.

> Don't have such information.

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

> No

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

> Ministry of Tourism and Environmental technical staff

National Agency of Protected Areas

The Regional Administration of Protected Areas

The network of Nature Conservation NGOs

Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

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

Target 1

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

[Reference to Aichi Target 2]

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

1.3.i

Please select only one per square.

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

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

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

> In the framework of the Living Buna project, funded by the MAVA Foundation and implemented in the Ramsar site of the Buna River, one of the realized activities is the Groundwater risk assessment, whose Outputs have been:

Hydrogeological maps (scale 1: 20000 or less),

Vulnerability map,

Hazard map,

Risk map,

Recommendations about groundwater use and land use planning.

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

> Partially, only for rivers used for HPP.

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

C=Partially

2.3 Additional Information

> In the framework of the project "Cross-border Prespa Oher Biosphere Reserve", the second phase, funded by the German government, KfW and MTE has been made the improvement of biodiversity conservation and reducing pressure on available resources and protected ecosystems in Prespa National Park: waste management, wastewater management, environmental education and awareness raising, and drinking water supply.

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.)

A=Yes

2.4 Additional Information

> The Living Buna Project has the goal to ensure the long-term conservation of species and habitats in the "Buna River-Velipoja" Protected Landscape (BRVPL) with particular emphasis on halting or significantly reducing unsustainable development and water abstraction.

2.5 Additional Information

> Unknown.

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

X=Unknown

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

X=Unknown

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

Y=Not Relevant

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

Y=Not Relevant

2.10 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants? If relevant to your country

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

Y=Not Relevant

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

X=Unknown

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

> 0

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

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

Y=Not Relevant

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

X=Unknown

Target 3

Public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands. {1.10}

[Reference to Aichi Targets 3, 4, 7 and 8]

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

KRA 1.10.i

C=Partially

3.1 Additional Information

> In the framework of the project "Empowerment of Civil Society Environmental Organizations to promote nature protection in Albania", Advocacy for the development of sustainable ecotourism while respecting the environment, implemented in Karavasta Lagoon by INCA (NGO) during 2021 has been provided training and support for farmers, managing authorities and stakeholders for organic farming in this site.

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

Please select only one per square.

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

3.2 Additional information

> In the framework of the DestiMed project "Mediterranean Ecotourism Destination", funded by the EU through IPA funds during the first phase, an ecotourism package was created for the Ramsar site of the Buna River and Lake Shkodra. During the second phase of the project 2020-2022 the project was implemented in the Divjake-Karavasta protected area and aims to create a consortium of Mediterranean Ecotourism, the DestiMed PLUS Standard for Ecotourism in Mediterranean Protected Areas and the mapping of Mediterranean ecotourism for the regional protected areas. A number of local tour operators are involved in this project.

3.3 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i

C=Partially

3.3 Additional information

> A series of trainings and information activities, from all the projects that are being implemented in the wetlands of Albania, have been developed to raise the awareness of the local communities for the conservation and smart use of the wetlands.

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

B=No

Target 4

Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.

{Reference to Aichi Target 9}

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

C=Partially

4.1 Additional information

> According to the Strategic Biodiversity Policy Document approved with DCM no. 31, date 20.01.2016 is drafted the list of invasive species and approved with DCM no. 477, date 30.07.20221 "For approval of the list of invasive species list and definition of procedures for their prohibition and / or entry into the customs points of the country.

We still don't have a full national inventory of invasive alien species.

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

B=No

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

> By The Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust - PONT, during 2021, has been made possible the elimination of hindi walnut within the territory of Prespa National Park, through interventions to cut all regenerated shoots, after 3 consecutive interventions during 2020.

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

X=Unknown

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

X=Unknown

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

B=No

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

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

E=Exact number (sites)

> 4

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)

> 4

5.5 Of the Ramsar sites without a formal management plan, for how many is there effective management planning currently being implemented through other relevant means e.g. through existing actions for appropriate wetland management? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i

Y=Not Relevant

5.3 – 5.5 Additional information

> From all four management plans that are in force, the latest approved is the management plan of Butrinti which is approved by the National Council of Material Cultural Heritage with decision no. 95, date 07.04.2020.

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

B=No

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)

> 4

5.7 Additional information

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

> Pursuant to DCM no. 593, date 09.10.2018 "On the composition, functioning, duties and responsibilities of the Management Committees of environmental protected areas" Management Committees of all protected areas have been established, headed by the Prefect of the region.

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

> The structure of the National Agency of Protected Areas is composed by 12 Regional Administration that are based in the territory, and they bring every month the report on the situation, including illegal activities, which negatively affect protected areas.

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

> Despite the hard work that the staff of each RAPA does in the field, it has not been possible to identify all the perpetrators of illegal activities. For Butrint and Karavasta Lagoon, reports on human-induced or likely changes have been made to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, but up to date these issues have been resolved.

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

A=Yes

7.3 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken

> The national study for the increase of the PAs surface in the country was completed during this period, as a contribution to the achievement of Aichi target 11. As the result the PA coverage in the country stands at 21 %. The DCMs for the approval of different categories are ongoing and two of them have been approved on 26.01.2022.

Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

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

Target 8

National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i
[Reference to Aichi Targets 12, 14, 18, 19]

8.1 Does your country have a complete National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

B=No

8.1 Additional information

> After the review of the system of protected areas, all protected areas are very well identified, including areas that have wetlands in their territory. For each area the boundaries and the surface are very well defined, but an inventory especially for wetlands, we don't have.

The last inventory we have was developed within a two-year project (2001 - 2002) conducted by the Environmental Center for Administration and Technology (ECAT) and the Greek Biotope/Wetland Center (EKBY), with the participation of Albanian and Greek scientists and the continuing support of the Albanian Ministry of Environment (MoE). There is no more recent inventory.

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

D=Planned

8.2 Additional information

> As soon as we have the financial means, we will start the process of updating the Ramsar sites data in RSIS.

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

B=No

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

> Any data on protected areas becomes accessible to the public through the official website of NAPA or MTE, social networks, information boards, etc.

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

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

* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

Please select only one per square.

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

8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b)

> The problems are related to the water used by the HPPs, and the pollution from the solid waste.

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

G=More than (km2)

> 981.81

8.6 Details

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

Note:

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

If the data on inventories are partial or not complete, use the information that is available.

Guidance on information on national wetland extent, to be provided in Target 8 "National Wetlands Inventory" of the National Report Form can be consulted at: <https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidance-on-information-on-national-wetland-extent>

> This number only refers to the official amount of the total area of the Ramsar sites, as given on the Convention website (<https://www.ramsar.org/wetland/albania>)

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.

> We still don't have a detailed information about the above question but in the process of revision of all the protected areas surfaces and update of the information on RSIS, this requirement will be available.

In the Inventory from 2001 the total number of wetlands, which has been identified by satellite images and verified on the ground, is 784, covering an area of 96,803 ha or 3% of the country's territory. Natural wetlands cover an area of 77,354 ha or 79.91% of the total wetland area of Albania. Lakes and lagoons are the major parts of the country's wetland area, with 37.67% (36,565 ha) and 26.07% (25,241ha) respectively. Man-made wetlands, which include reservoirs, impoundments, excavations, aquaculture ponds and seasonally flooded agricultural land have a relatively small surface: 19,449 ha or 20.09%, of the total wetland area of the country. If you ask me if there is changes after this I do not have an answer.

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

> Financial support would be highly appreciated.

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

B=No

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

B=No

9.2 Additional information

> The law on protected areas, approved in May 2017 has the latest amendments the designation of a Ramsar site.

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

9.4 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}

B=No

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

B=No

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

B=No

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

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

Please select only one per square.

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

9.7 Additional information

> a) In the framework of the project "Empowerment of Civil Society Environmental Organizations to promote nature protection in Albania", Advocacy for the development of sustainable ecotourism while respecting the environment, implemented in Karavasta Lagoon by INCA (NGO) during 2021 has been provided training and support for farmers, managing authorities and stakeholders for organic farming in this site.

c) In the implementation of the Living Buna project, the evaluation of ecosystem services has been made, with the following outputs:

Ecosystem services valuation study in river Buna,

Updated map with habitats developed using Earth observation toolbox,

Analysis of potential services of habitats,

Monitoring protocol based on non-monetary multi-capital method tested for validation,

Monitoring results and analysis of recreational and educational services provided by Buna wetlands.

During the implementation of the project "Road to a sustainable Natura2000 network in Albania; natural complex Nartë-Pishë-Poro", which was completed in 2021, funded by the EU and implemented by PPNEA (NGO), has been completed the mapping of natural and socio-economic values (vegetation and habitats, mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, GIS data, etc.)

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

B=No

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

B=No

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

> One of the objectives of the project "Cross-border Prespa Oher Biosphere Reserve" the second phase, funded by the German government, KfW and MTE, still being implemented in Prespa area, is to ensure the sustainable preservation and exploration of valuable cultural assets, through:

- Installation and maintenance of the floating dock on the island of Maligradi,
- Installation of some fences around the Treni cave,
- Placement of an information board for the Treni cave,
- Completion of the proposal for the designation of Hermit churches as cultural monuments.

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

Please select only one per square.

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

10.2 Additional information

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

> The Law 41/2020, of 4.5.2020 "On some additions and changes to the Law "On biodiversity protection" no. 9587, dated 20.7.2006, ensured the provisions of the Nagoya protocol on Access and benefit sharing into the national legislation. Traditional knowledge is included in these provisions. Further the law will be completed with by-laws to make it fully implementable.

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)

B=No

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

> In the implementation of the Living Buna project, the evaluation of ecosystem services has been made, with the following outputs:

Ecosystem services valuation study in river Buna,

Updated map with habitats developed using Earth observation toolbox,

Analysis of potential services of habitats,

Monitoring protocol based on non-monetary multi-capital method tested for validation,

Monitoring results and analysis of recreational and educational services provided by Buna wetlands.

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

> One of the objectives of the project "Cross-border Prespa Oher Biosphere Reserve" the second phase, is the contribution to reducing poverty and improving the living conditions of the local population, through providing small grants to local community projects.

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

A=Yes

11.3 Additional information

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

> In all management plans there is a section that includes the socio-economic values of the area. Also a socio-economic analysis on human dependency on resources, including agriculture / land use practices and water management in River Buna, was carried out in this RAMSAR site, as a result of the Living Buna project.

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

[Living Buna project website](#)

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

> Considering that the Ramsar site of Butrinti has the UNESCO status for its cultural values, the Integrated Management Plan (2020-2030) of this area has been drafted and approved, as a sustainable management unit where the cultural and natural elements are interlinked, for the development of a long-term period with benefits for the local communities of this area.

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

B=No

12.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been effectively implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i

B=No

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

f) International cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
g) Implementation and support	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

Target 13

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

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

13.1 Additional information

> All the spatial planning development goes through a SEA process.

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

Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

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

Target 15

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

15.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i
 A=Yes

15.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative
> Albania, through the National Focal Point Mr. Dedej has participated in the drafting of a RAMSAR RESOLUTION for consideration by the Parties at COP 14, entitled "Protection, management and restoration of Mediterranean wetlands as Nature-based solutions to address environmental and climate changes". This initiative includes Mediterranean countries.

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

15.2 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s)
> Albania is part of The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet), which is a regional intergovernmental network operating within the framework of the Ramsar Convention. The activities of the Living Buna project are organized in the framework of this initiative.

Target 16

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

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

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

Please select only one per square.

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

16.2 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)

> 4

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

E=Exact Number (centres)

> 3

16.2 Additional information

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

> Yes, the visitor centres, are part of all facilities structures established in all national protected areas network.

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

Please select only one per square.

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

16.3 Additional information

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

> Local communities are involved in the management and decision-making of Ramsar sites based on the area Management Plan. Also, for each activity that will be provided with an Environmental Permit, before issuing the permit, a consultation with the public (the community of the area in particular) is performed.

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

B=No

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

C=Partially

16.5 Additional information

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

> The Prespa Transboundary Park, which includes the protected areas of the three countries around the Prespa Lakes, was established in 2000 under the name "Prespa Park", through a statement by the Prime Ministers of Albania, Greece and Northern Macedonia (then Macedonia). An agreement was signed by the three Environment Ministers and the EU High Representative to institutionalize the work of Prespa Park in 2010. With the initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece and with the technical assistance of the Governing Body of Prespa Park, the first high-level meeting (three ministers) was organized online in the format of a "webinar", on June 29, 2021. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the governing bodies nominated by the three countries as well as the EU.

Article 10 of the agreement establishes the Prespa Park Management Committee, where its members, from each state party must be:

- 1 representative from the Ministry of Environment,
- 1 community representative,
- 1 representative of non-governmental organizations active in the area,
- 1 representative of the administration of protected areas;
- 1 representative of the European Union;
- two observers, one from the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) and one from the Ohrid Management Committee (from each State Party).

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

Please select only one per square.

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

16.6 Additional information

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

> a) The Regional Administrations of the Protected Areas (RAPAs) in the counties serve as the managing institutions of each Ramsar site. These institutions are the territorial branches of the National Agency for Protected Areas, therefore the cooperation is very close.

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

> Every year on February 2, for Wetlands Day, activities are carried out by NAPA and RAPAs, such as afforestation, environmental hours, territorial cleaning, etc. To celebrate this day, the results of the International Wintering Waterfowl Census are presented.

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

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

17.2 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

17.3 [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

17.4 [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

17.5 [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
> Projects developed within MedWet.

17.6 Has any financial support been provided by your country to the implementation of the Strategic Plan?
 B=No

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
 C=Partially

18.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.2} {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv
 B=No

18.3 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
> NAPA is in close cooperation with organizations such as: BirdLife International, IUCN, WWF, etc. which are financing or implementing various projects in protected areas.

18.4 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}
 B=No

18.5 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

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

A=Yes

18.6 Additional information

> Shkodra Lake and Prespa Lakes are cross-border areas.

18.7 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

C=Partially

18.7 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place

> A cross-border management committee exists only for the Prespa Lakes.

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

> The International Census of Wintering Waterfowl is conducted every year on the same dates in 146 countries around the world, an initiative since 2016 conducted in Albania by NAPA.

Target 19

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

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 17]

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

B=No

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

C=Partially

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

F=Less than (opportunities)

> Less than 10

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

X=Unknown

19.3 Additional information

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

> The trainings focused mainly on the Climate Fund (GCF) for Wetlands Conservation, Ramsar Site Information System training, national wetland inventory and their importance for decision making, Preparation of National Reports for the 14th meeting of the COP, Wetlands as Nature Based Solutions (NBS) for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

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

Z=Not Applicable

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

C=Low

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Resourcing

B=Adequate

Target 1: Wetland benefits - National Targets

> Wetland ecosystems part of the tourism development in the country.

Target 1: Wetland benefits - Planned activity

> The project for the reclamation of the east coast of Shkodra Lake by the Albanian Government will increase the number of tourists in this zone.

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

> In the framework of Living Buna project has been made a gap analysis and needs assessment of tourism operators in river Buna.

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

D=Not relevant

Target 2: Water Use - Resourcing

D=Severely limiting

Target 2: Water Use - National Targets

> In the contracts that the Water Resources Management Agency concludes with HPP users, it determines the amount of water needed for normal ecosystem development (typically 25-30%).

Target 2: Water Use - Planned activity

> Continuous monitoring during the construction of HPPs to ensure it respects all the conditions of the contract.

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

> The Ministry of Tourism and Environment / National Environmental Agency makes the continuous control of the fulfillment of conditions set in the Environmental Permit.

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

C=Low

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Resourcing

C=Limiting

Target 3: Public and private sectors - National Targets

> Conservation of natural fresh water in the construction of HPP along the river/spring basin.

Target 3: Public and private sectors - Planned activity

> Control at least the 20% natural water flow obligatory in the HPP functionality.

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

E=No answer

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Resourcing

E=No answer

Target 4: Invasive alien species - National Targets

> Continuous monitoring of species presence, especially of invasive alien species .

Target 4: Invasive alien species - Planned activity

> Identifying and controlling the possible pathways of introduction of alien species and monitoring their behavior in the ecosystem.

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

> By The Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust - PONT, during 2021, has been made possible the elimination of hindi walnut within the territory of Prespa National Park, through interventions to cut all regenerated shoots, after 3 consecutive interventions during 2020.

Also in the implementation of the project LIFE MEDTURTLES, funded by the EU, and implemented in the protected area Divjake-Karavasta, the development of scientific research has been carried out in relation to the nesting of sea turtles on the Albanian coast and increasing the rehabilitation capacity of sea turtles, expansion and equipping with the necessary facilities and tools of the Sea Turtle Center.

During the implementation of the project "Ensuring financial sustainability in Protected Areas in Albania", funded by GEF / MTE and UNDP, the Bird Rehabilitation Center was built and put into operation in Divjake.

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

B=Medium

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Resourcing

C=Limiting

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - National Targets

> Maintaining the status and respecting the guidelines given in the Management Plan of each wetland under Protected Areas.

Target 5: Ecological character of Ramsar Sites - Planned activity

> Conservation of important habitats and species through the direct monitoring in the area. A project is defining the habitats and their composition along the shores of Prespa Lakes.

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

> A project funded and supported by PONT, BirdLife INTERNATIONAL and Critical Ecosystem Partnership FUND has been developed in Prespa Lakes related to endemic plants and those with limited distribution in this area. One of the results of this project was the publication of a material that shows some of the most important plant values of Prespa, as a natural ecosystem.

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

D=Not relevant

Target 7: Sites at risk - Resourcing

E=No answer

Target 7: Sites at risk - National Targets

> Conservation and risk management of wetlands.

Target 7: Sites at risk - Planned activity

> 1) Rehabilitation and maintaining of the communication channels between the sea and the coastal wetlands,
2) Flooding control.

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

> In the framework of the project "Support for capacity building to improve the management of Divjaka-Karavasta National Park" funded by the Japanese Government in cooperation with JICA, during October 2021 it became possible to install monitoring equipment for measuring water levels in three channels connecting the Karavasta Lagoon with the sea.

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

C=Low

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Resourcing

D=Severely limiting

Target 8: National wetland inventories - National Targets

> No target.

Target 8: National wetland inventories - Planned activity

> No plan.

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

B=Medium

Target 9: Wise Use - Resourcing

B=Adequate

Target 9: Wise Use - National Targets

> Implementation of Management Plans and guidelines within Ramsar Sites.

Target 9: Wise Use - Planned activity

> Best practices promoted in the protection of the estuary of Buna/Bojana river (project that will be finished in 2021).

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

> Within the Living Buna project, second phase, small grants for socio-economic development and habitat / ecosystem restoration have been awarded to various local organizations, according to the projects proposed by them.

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

C=Limiting

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - National Targets

> The community becomes part of the process of consultation for the development of national policies and strategies.

Target 10: Traditional Knowledge - Planned activity

> By Decision of the Council of Ministers in Albania no. 593, dated 09.10.2018, each Environmental Protected Area has a Management Committee which, among others, has representatives of the environmental civil society at local level and representatives of forest and pasture owners, whose property is included in the surface of the Environmental Protected Area. This increases the participation of community in the development of national policies and strategies.

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

> Management Committees have been established for each protected area, which according to the DCM for their establishment must meet at least twice a year.

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

C=Low

Target 11: Wetland functions - Resourcing

D=Severely limiting

Target 11: Wetland functions - National Targets

> Promote the services and functionality of wetland to a broad public with the emphasize to the communities living in the area.

Target 11: Wetland functions - Planned activity

> 1) Celebrating the International Wetland Day,
2) Participating in local festivity like "Mandarina Fest" and others to promote the wetland benefits.

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

> As every year on February 2, om "Wetlands Day" various activities are organized, according to the theme and brochures set by the Convention. RAPAs also participate in different local festivities, in order to promote the natural values of protected areas.

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

C=Low

Target 12: Restoration - Resourcing

C=Limiting

Target 12: Restoration - National Targets

> Stabilizing the threats of water system in damaged wetlands of economic and nature importance.

Target 12: Restoration - Planned activity

> Building the resilience of Kune-Vaini wetland system through ecosystem-based adaptation.

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

> In the framework of the project "Building the resilience of Kune-Vaini wetland system through ecosystem-based adaptation", funded by GEF has been made the reforestation of 7 ha of degraded land within the Kune-Vain Lagoon. The reforested areas have been maintained, with additional planting taking place as required. The rehabilitation of 2000m of coastal dunes through the planting of indigenous, climate-resilient species is complete.

The opening of the tidal channel is complete.

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

C=Low

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Resourcing

C=Limiting

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - National Targets

> Harmonization of national policies of developing key sectors in accordance with sustainable development.

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability - Planned activity

> Consulting with the private sector in bringing the appropriate practices for the conservation of wetlands.

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

> In the framework of the project "Cross-border Prespa Oher Biosphere Reserve" the second phase, funded by the German government, KfW and MTE has been successfully completed the support to the implementation of all economic packages for the community and villages of Prespa National Park, such as: tourism, handicrafts, agriculture , livestock, beekeeping, fishing, etc.

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

C=Low

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Resourcing

D=Severely limiting

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - National Targets

> Participate actively in the regional initiative of the MedWet.

Target 15: Regional Initiatives - Planned activity

> Collaboration with interested parties in region for further development of these initiatives.

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

C=Low

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Resourcing

D=Severely limiting

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - National Targets

> Promotion of the importance of wetlands to the general public.

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use - Planned activity

> Organizing continuous lessons with students, especially with students who live near or inside the Protected Areas, to promote wetlands through their principal services.

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

> Based on the annual plan of Environmental Education and the signed agreements with the competent institutions, RAPAs organize approximately 410 environmental hours, with students of the pre-university education system, in order to promote and raise their awareness about the values of protected areas.

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

E=No answer

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Resourcing

D=Severely limiting

Target 17: Financial and other resources - National Targets

> No target.

Target 17: Financial and other resources - Planned activity

> No plan.

Target 18: International cooperation

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

Target 18: International cooperation - Priority

B=Medium

Target 18: International cooperation - Resourcing

C=Limiting

Target 18: International cooperation - National Targets

> Exchange and collaboration for reaching main objectives in wetland conservation and sustainable development.

Target 18: International cooperation - Planned activity

> Organizing conferences, coordination forums, study visits etc. in reaching international cooperation.

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

> Depending on the projects implemented in the protected areas, exchanges of experiences and study visits to different places are organized. The COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily suspended this activity.

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

C=Low

Target 19: Capacity Building - Resourcing

C=Limiting

Target 19: Capacity Building - National Targets

> Get to know the strategic plan objectives to be implemented.

Target 19: Capacity Building - Planned activity

> Organizing training with interested parties.

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

> NAPA and RAPAs staff participate in an average of 75 trainings each year, organized by different organizations, with different topics, which increase their capacities in the good management of the protected areas.

