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

Submitted December 2021 to the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

Background information

1. The COP14 National Report Format (NRF) was approved by the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting (SC57) for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention.

2. For the purposes of this national reporting to the Ramsar Convention, the scope of the term "wetland" is that of the Convention text, i.e. all inland wetlands (including lakes and rivers), all nearshore coastal wetlands (including tidal marshes, mangroves and coral reefs) and human-made wetlands (e.g. rice paddy and reservoirs), even if a national definition of "wetland" may differ from that adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

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

3. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention and are made publicly available on the Convention's website.

4. There are seven main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are:

   i) to provide data and information on how, and to what extent, the Convention is being implemented;
   ii) to provide tools for countries for their national planning;
   iii) to capture lessons and experience to help Parties plan future action;
   iv) to identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
   v) to provide a means for Parties to account for their commitments under the Convention;
   vi) to provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementing the Convention, and to plan its future priorities; and
   vii) to provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.

5. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention".

6. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:

   i) providing an opportunity to compile and analyse information that contracting parties can use to inform their national planning and programming;

   ii) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global, national and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the COP as a series of Information Papers, including:
      - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level; and
      - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance);

iii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP;

iv) providing the source data for time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention included in other Convention products; and

v) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role on wetlands for the CBD.

The structure of the COP14 National Report

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

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

Section 3 provides the 90 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation Goals and Targets in the Strategic Plan 2016-2024, and with an optional 'free-text' section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity.

National Report to Ramsar COP14

Section 1: Institutional information

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

Name of Contracting Party:	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority:	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Dr Cheryl Case, Deputy Director, International Environment Negotiations
Mailing address:	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 1st Floor, Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF, UK
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	Cheryl.Case@defra.gov.uk

Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title:	Kat Holmes, Team Leader, International Environment Negotiations
Mailing address:	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), 1st Floor, Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF, UK
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	Kat.Holmes@defra.gov.uk

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

Name and title:	Stephen Grady, Senior International Biodiversity Adviser
Name of organisation:	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Mailing address:	Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1JY, UK
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	Stephen.Grady@jncc.gov.uk

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

Name and title:	Kat Holmes
Mailing address:	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), 1st Floor, Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF, UK
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	Kat.Holmes@defra.gov.uk

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

Name and title:	Chris Rostron, International Engagement Manager
Name of organisation:	The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
Mailing address:	The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, GL2 7BT, UK
Telephone/Fax:	
Email:	Chris.Rostron@wwt.org.uk

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) The UK has initiated measures to further protect and restore peatlands through the IUCN UK Peatland Programme, including the adoption of the UK Peatland Strategy in 2018 https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/uk-strategy which aims to drive and co-ordinate action across the UK, supported by country level plans and funding for restoration projects (see 3.3 and 12.3 for further details).

2) Continued investment in a wide range of UK policies and other measures that are broadly analogous with the 'wise use' principles of the Ramsar Convention, including:
i) implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and EU Water Framework Directive;
ii) making progress with the ambitious 25 Year Environment Plan https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan;
iii) publication of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy post-2020 Statement of Intent https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-biodiversity-strategy-post-2020-statement-intent/ and Edinburgh Declaration https://www.gov.scot/publications/edinburgh-declaration-on-post-2020-biodiversity-framework/;
iv) tabling of the new Environment Bill https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020;
v) progress with the review and update of River Basin Management Plans https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/river-basin-planning-challenges-and-choices; https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/; https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/water-reports/river-basin-management-plans/?lang=en; https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/river-basin-planning-3rd-cycle-timeline-consultation;
vi) development of the evidence base for the protection of coastal/marine wetland habitats.

3) Significant resources have been allocated to tackle Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS), for example:

i) retaining the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation in UK law and putting in place a comprehensive regulatory regime in each UK Administration to tackle species listed as being of special concern;
ii) a horizon scanning exercise was completed that identified the top 30 non-native species likely to become invasive in Britain over the next ten years http://www.nonnativespecies.org//index.cfm?pageid=611;
iii) the relaunching of Be Plant Wise https://www.gov.uk/government/news/be-plant-wise-help-the-fight-against-the-weeds-that-are-taking-over-our-waterways asking UK retailers to pledge support to the campaign and for gardeners and pond owners to dispose of their unwanted plants responsibly to prevent the spread of invasive plants;
iv) completion of a 3.5 year project to improve biosecurity against INNS in the UK Overseas Territories, which produced a biosecurity toolkit, provided training and mobilised £1m in co-finance http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=619.

Further details/examples: http://www.nonnativespecies.org/news/index.cfm.

4) The Third Review of the UK Special Protection Area (SPA) network https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/special-protection-areas-overview/#spa-reviews-third-review-2000s provides a *de facto* review of the avian aspects of the UK Ramsar Site network. The second phase of this review has established advice and options for new and/or revised sites, which will address insufficiencies for certain bird populations across the terrestrial SPA network. Focussed monitoring and/or specific management actions have also been identified, and prioritised implementation action plans are being prepared.

5) Designation, extension and progressing further protection of Ramsar Sites:
i) Sombrero Island Nature Reserve Marine Park, Anguilla, was designated in May 2018;
ii) Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar Site was extended in January 2020;
iii) approval of a proposed expansion on East Caicos is pending;
iv) consultations have been undertaken on two proposed Ramsar Sites (Derryleckagh and Teal Lough) in Northern Ireland;
v) two 'no mobile-fishing gear zones' were designated in 2017 and confirmed as OSPAR registered Marine Protected Areas in 2019 in the Ecrehouse and Minquiers Ramsar Sites on Jersey;
vi) successive releases of the Anegada Rock Iguana and national level protection has been extended to the Western Salt Ponds Ramsar Site on Anegada, British Virgin Islands.

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

1) Delivery of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and EU Water Framework Directive and other EU-related policies, regulations and measures have all contributed towards the implementation of the objectives of the Ramsar Convention in the UK. Whilst this has had many positive effects, the profile of the Convention tends to be over-shadowed and is not necessarily seen as a key driver for wetland conservation. Departure from the EU offers an opportunity for the UK to review its approach to nature conservation, setting out clearly what is valued and why. For example, seeking to improve the management of Ramsar features that are not protected as features of any overlapping European site (SAC/SPA). This is slowly being addressed by the countries of the UK by developing associated conservation measures.

2) Resourcing both baseline inventory and monitoring of Ramsar Sites and wetlands more widely is challenging, partly because of the remote and patchy nature of certain wetland habitats. The UK has continued to make best use of existing resources and to develop and use new technologies.

3) Despite the development of a significant number of policies, regulations, statutory mechanisms and other measures aimed at promoting the conservation and sustainable use of wetland ecosystems and water resources, addressing complex, multifaceted and resource-demanding issues such as diffuse pollution, improving the ecological status of rivers and integrated management of water across sectors has proved difficult.

4) UK Ramsar Sites located in the UK Overseas Territories are on relatively small, remote islands that have small human populations, limited resources and limited capacity for planning, monitoring and management. This can result in some reliance on external funding and securing additional expertise from external sources, which can be difficult to sustain in the long-term.

5) Control and preventing establishment of highly invasive non-native species which affect wetlands is a major problem. Effective biosecurity measures to prevent invasive

species establishing are critical, but these are difficult to design and implement. Short-term funding cycles are often not compatible with the life cycle of invasive species control projects. Many of the species that have established in the freshwater and marine environment are exceptionally difficult to control and effective methods of eradication are not easy to design – they can also be difficult to apply, need to be sustained over a long timeframe, and can have environmentally damaging side-effects.

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

1) To maintain existing levels of integration of the objectives of the Ramsar Convention in domestic policies following EU Exit. After the Transition Period and pursuant to the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, UK Regulations implementing EU environmental laws including the Habitats and Birds Directives have continued to have effect, with modifications to ensure their ongoing operability. Government policy ensures Ramsar Sites are afforded the same protection as European sites (SACs and SPAs) now designated under UK Regulations.

2) To further progress the IUCN UK Peatland Programme https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org. In England, this includes the planned launch of a Peat Strategy in 2021; legislation to limit burning of vegetation on protected blanket bog; a new Peatland Restoration Capital Grant Scheme planned for 2021; a commitment to restore 35,000 hectares of peatland by 2025; development of a new England peat map; and the formation of a Lowland Agricultural Peat Task Force. In Wales, a National Peatlands Action Programme launched in 2020 includes a five year programme to restore 600-800 hectares of peatland annually targeted on key restoration sites; and plans to produce peatland habitat inventories based on a new peat map. The Scottish Government recently announced a substantial, multi-annual investment in peatland restoration of more than £250 million over the next decade. Northern Ireland is currently producing a national peatland strategy.

3) For the UK Government to continue to support biodiversity conservation in the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs), including:

- acting on the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan commitment to take action to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species, prevent human-induced extinction or loss of threatened species, and champion coral reef conservation;
- providing support to protect the UKOTs unique environments through the UK Darwin Plus Initiative https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/ and UKOTs Blue Belt Programme https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-blue-belt-programme aimed at protecting coral reefs and marine ecosystems;
- increasing the resilience of the UKOTs to natural disasters, such as hurricane related flood risks, including opportunities to maximise the role and value of coastal vegetation, mangroves and coral reefs.

4) For the UKOTs and Crown Dependencies to address specific issues affecting Ramsar Sites and other wetland habitats where necessary, including:

- taking action on invasive non-native species and improving biosecurity;
- establishing effective site protection measures;
- designation of new and extension of existing Ramsar Sites;
- creating and implementing site management plans;
- improving wetland inventory and other baseline data;
- developing sustainable funding mechanisms for site management;
- raising awareness and improving opportunities for educational use of designated sites.

5) To support biodiversity conservation in other countries, including using funding from the UK International Climate Finance (ICF) https://www.gov.uk/guidance/international-climate-finance, which the UK government has committed to spending at least £3bn between 2021-2026. This aims to provide climate change solutions and funding for projects that will protect and restore biodiversity-rich land and ocean, help create sustainable food systems and support the livelihoods of the world's poorest. This has the potential to support Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible countries, which may also fulfil many objectives of the Convention e.g. preserving water catchments in areas facing increased drought risk.

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

Whilst the development of the online RIS portal has been an excellent development, there still remains no possibility of database-to-database transfer of information as requested by COP in 2002. For countries like the UK with a large number of Ramsar Sites, the manual input of data, on a site-by-site basis, remains a major constraint to our ability to provide data and information on our Ramsar Site network. Delivery of the data vision requested in 2002 would be of enormous value.

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) implementation assistance

UK Government and its agencies already work closely with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (the UK's BirdLife International partner) and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

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)?

As a Contracting Party to various Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) (e.g. CBD, UNFCCC, CMS, OSPAR, Bern), the UK works to maximise synergies across these when designing and implementing policies and/or strategies to deliver 'on the ground', e.g. where there are mutually compatible or reinforcing Resolutions. The Ramsar Convention in the UK has been partly delivered through national implementation of EU Directives, which also contribute to the delivery of the CBD goals and targets and other linked MEA objectives/targets. The UK Marine Strategy https://moat.cefas.co.uk/introduction-to-uk-marine-strategy/ provides a framework for country-level implementation in the marine environment.

Linkage is also achieved through the UK post-2010 Biodiversity Framework https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-post-2010-biodiversity-framework/, which sets out how UK countries work together to meet the CBD targets and EU Biodiversity Strategy. The UK Biodiversity Indicator Framework (published annually) forms a link to assessment and indicator frameworks at EU and global scales https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-biodiversity-indicators-2020/.

The Convention's 4th Strategic Plan 2016–2024 calls on Parties (through cooperation and data sharing) to increase the identification of synergies with collaborating MEAs and other international processes at national and global levels. The vision notes how the effective management of Ramsar Sites and the wise use of wetlands more broadly is an essential contribution also to the objectives of the other MEAs and the water-related Conventions. An example could be to appropriately align the identification of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Critical Site Network with site protection and management provided through the Ramsar Convention.

Opportunities exist to enhance synergies and highlight cross-overs and common aims between MEAs, which could facilitate implementation by Parties, including through the development of common elements of reporting and review, such as relevant headline indicators, and shared reporting tools (DaRT). Such improvements could reduce the burden on Parties to meet their obligations under multiple MEAs, which would have significant benefits for those with limited resources, including the UK Overseas Territories. The UK strongly supports the continued involvement of the Ramsar Secretariat in discussions aimed at maximising these synergies. Ramsar National Focal Points (NFPs) should work with their respective national NFPs of other MEAs.

Other reporting frameworks, such as the UNFCCC Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) template provides opportunities for countries to draw links between national implementation plans across MEAs. For example, the UK's revised 2020 NDC reiterates the commitment to biodiversity by upholding its responsibilities under the Ramsar Convention, highlighting that biodiversity protection through Ramsar, CBD and other conventions also provides significant climate mitigation and adaptation benefits. The UK's revised NDC also noted it will adopt the 2013 Wetlands Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories; this further demonstrates the climate mitigation potential of biodiversity and a strong connection to the blue carbon potential from the UK coastal waters in Ramsar Sites and more widely, aligning with Ramsar Resolution XIII.14 on blue carbon, where it encourages parties to update their national GHG inventories to better reflect data for wetlands, among other climate benefits. In doing this, Parties can jointly deliver environmental and societal objectives under different MEAs.

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

The conservation and sustainable use of UK wetlands and water resources has been integrated into a wide-range of policies, regulations, statutory mechanisms and other measures across a wide-range of sectors (see 1.1).

In England, the Environment Bill introduces a powerful package of new policies and tools to support nature's recovery. The Bill https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020, https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/environment.html will establish an Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) in England to act as a new independent regulator that will scrutinise government policy to ensure the environment is at the heart of decision making. The Welsh Government has appointed a new Environmental Protection Assessor in advance of a permanent environmental governance oversight body and Environmental Standards Scotland has been established as an independent environmental governance body in Scotland.

The Environment Bill also requires government to set at least one target in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. It will also require a new, historic, legally binding target for species abundance for 2030 to be set, aiming to halt the decline of nature. Furthermore, the Bill creates a new statutory cycle of monitoring, planning and reporting, including a long-term Environmental Improvement Plan https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020/august-2020-environment-bill-environmental-targets.

Work is underway to tackle the challenges that the water environment faces across the UK. For example, in England a consultation exercise is underway to help update the current series of River Basin Management Plans https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/river-basin-planning-challenges-and-choices. This is focused on addressing water levels and flows, chemicals in the water environment, invasive non-native species, physical modifications, and pollution from plastics, agriculture, water industry wastewater and other sources. It strongly advocates taking a strategic catchment wide approach with local partners working collaboratively, and recognises to achieve the target of bringing 75% of waters back to near natural condition, investment in river catchments needs to be greatly increased. Similar processes are underway in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales (see section 2A, item 2v).

Sustained implementation of the UK Peatland Strategy and associated action on peatland conservation should significantly improve the status of this key wetland resource. Associated with the Strategy, policy specific activity aims to deliver positive changes towards sustainable agriculture and associated funding, halt commercial peat extraction and peat use across the UK, and reduce other land use pressures that threaten peatlands, e.g. renewable energy and forestry.

A number of specific policy improvements have been identified or recommended for the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, including improving biosecurity policies on Tristan da Cunha and the British Virgin Islands to address invasive non-native species; greater action to deal with encroachment of protected areas on Bermuda; better legal protection for wetlands on Bermuda and the Turks and Caicos Islands; commitment to a territory-wide terrestrial protected area network and implementation of a biosecurity detector dog programme on the South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands; the development of a Wetlands Policy on Anguilla; and the compilation of strategies for the environment and sustainability by the Alderney Government, and similarly through community leadership facilitated by Montserrat National Trust and UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum.

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

Decision making on wetlands-related policy happens across a range of teams across departments and agencies, including teams across the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs working on protected areas, peatlands, marine, climate change, invasive alien species, etc. Although the UK does not monitor diversity in our UK work specifically related to wetlands, information is publicly available about diversity across the UK Civil Service https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-service-diversity-inclusion-dashboard/civil-service-diversity-and-inclusion-dashboard. The UK strongly supports diverse workforces. The UK Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society.

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

Streamlining reporting associated with the different Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the Ramsar Convention, and ensuring the reporting focuses on active on-the-ground conservation work – what is being delivered for biodiversity, people and the climate. Understanding the threats and providing the evidence and tools for Contracting parties to react and use them.

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

Note that references within this report to the 'UK' refer to implementation by the UK Government and the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Implementation is also the responsibility of the administrations within the 'UK Overseas Territories' and 'Crown Dependencies' and therefore is referred to separately throughout the document, where appropriate.

<u>UK and Devolved Administrations – government</u>

- UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- UK Ministry of Defence (MOD)
- Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)
- Scottish Government
- Welsh Government

<u>Statutory Bodies / Arm's Length Bodies</u>

- Environment Agency
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
- Marine Scotland
- Natural England
- Natural Resources Wales / Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
- NatureScot
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- The Crown Estate

<u>Crown Dependencies – government</u>

- States of Alderney
- States of Guernsey
- Government of Jersey
- Isle of Man Government
- Isle of Sark Chief Pleas

<u>UK Overseas Territories – government</u>

- Government of Anguilla
- Ascension Island Government
- Government of Bermuda
- Government of the British Indian Ocean Territory
- Government of the British Virgin Islands
- Cayman Islands Government
- Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas Administration
- Falkland Islands Government
- Government of Montserrat

- Government of the Pitcairn Islands
- Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
- St Helena Government
- Tristan da Cunha Government
- Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands

UK – non-government

- Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust
- British Trust for Ornithology
- Buglife
- Chester Zoo
- Country Landowners Association
- IUCN UK (National Committee) Peatland Programme
- IUCN UK (National Committee) River Restoration and Biodiversity Programme
- Marine Conservation Society UK
- National Farmers Union
- National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
- National Trust
- National Trust for Scotland
- Northern Ireland Environment Link
- Plantlife
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Scottish Environment Link
- Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)
- Wildlife and Countryside Link
- Zoological Society of London

Crown Dependencies – non-government

- Alderney Wildlife Trust
- La Société Sercquaise (The Sark Society)
- Manx Wildlife Trust

UK Overseas Territories – non-government

- Anguilla National Trust
- Bermuda Audubon Society
- Bermuda Government Department of Parks
- Bermuda National Trust
- BirdLife Cyprus
- Chagos Conservation Trust
- Montserrat National Trust
- St Helena National Trust
- Turks and Caicos Reef Fund
- UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

Other

- Rare

Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

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

Target 1. *Wetland benefits are featured in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.*
[Reference to Aichi Target 2]

1.1 Have wetland conservation and the identification of wetlands benefits been integrated into sustainable approaches to the following national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.3.2} {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

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

1.1 Additional information:

The need to conserve and promote sustainable use of UK wetlands and water resources has been integrated into many policies, regulations, statutory mechanisms and other measures.

The development and implementation of biodiversity policy is a devolved responsibility in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, where it is delivered through country plans, policies and strategies, e.g. https://www.gov.scot/policies/biodiversity/. The UK post-2010 Biodiversity Framework sets out how the countries work together to meet the CBD Aichi targets https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-post-2010-biodiversity-framework/. In England, the 25 Year Plan for the Environment sets out coordinated actions to implement improvements to biodiversity, water and air quality https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan. This has resulted in the development of the first Environment Bill in over 20 years, which alongside the strengthened Agriculture and Fisheries Acts, sets a new legal foundation for government action to improve the environment, invest in nature restoration and Nature-based Solutions to tackle biodiversity loss and climate change, including an ambitious programme of peatland restoration. The Scottish Government has published its Biodiversity Strategy post-2020 Statement of Intent and Edinburgh Declaration that set out future ambitions for halting biodiversity loss in Scotland, including for wetlands

https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-biodiversity-strategy-post-2020-statement-intent/, https://www.gov.scot/publications/edinburgh-declaration-on-post-2020-biodiversity-framework/. In Wales, the objective of securing sustainable management of natural resources has been progressed under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and through the Welsh Government Natural Resources Policy that recognises the importance of delivering nature-based solutions, developing resilient ecological networks, and maintaining, enhancing and restoring floodplains and hydrogeological systems https://gov.wales/natural-resources-policy. This contributes to the sustainable development goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales), which mirrors the recognised link between the Ramsar Convention and the UN Sustainable Development Goals at the national level. The policy is implemented through Area Statements in which biodiversity and ecosystem resilience are key themes https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/area-statements/.

In England, under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents, public authorities have a duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity when exercising their functions. The Environment Bill intends to strengthen this duty. The Act places a duty on the Secretary of State to further the conservation of key habitats and species, many of which occur in wetlands (see 3.1). Other measures, including national planning policies ensure appropriate protection and environmental and ecological impact assessments are conducted for proposed developments that could potentially damage protected wetlands and key wetland habitats (see 13.1).

Water resource management measures have resulted in reform arrangements to better manage water abstraction and maximise sustainable access to water in England (see 2.3). Other policies have produced integrated plans to protect and sustainably manage river basins, flood risk and shorelines (see 9.3), and statutory provisions focussing on protecting wetland ecosystems from pollution from agriculture, wastewater and industrial sources (see 3.1). The UK Marine Strategy https://moat.cefas.co.uk/introduction-to-uk-marine-strategy/ provides a framework for country-level implementation in the marine environment.

The UK Forestry Standard also recognises the role of forests in water regulation and purification, the need for forestry to avoid adverse impacts on watercourses and water quality, and to avoid afforestation where this could damage wetland habitats (see 3.4).

See also sections 9.1-9.2.

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

2.1 Additional information:

Detailed guidelines have been produced that set out the ecohydrological requirements, including critical environmental features for their maintenance or enhancement, for a range of UK wetland plant communities, including types of fen, mire, swamp, wet dune,

wet heath and wet woodland https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ecohydrological-guidelines-for-lowland-wetland-plant-communities, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/291628/scho0309bpoe-e-e.pdf, http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/61018, https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eco-hydrological-guidelines-for-wet-dune-habitats, http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/107007, http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/91054 – see also Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Freshwater Habitats and Species https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/1b15dd18-48e3-4479-a168-79789216bc3d.

In addition, the UK Technical Advisory Group of the EU Water Framework Directive has published guidance on threshold values and the identification and risk assessment of groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems http://wfduk.org/search/gwdte, on boundary values for nitrogen and phosphorous levels in lakes and rivers http://wfduk.org/resources/category/environmental-standard-methods-203, and the use of biological indicators (e.g. invertebrates, macrophytes, phytoplankton) to assess nutrient enrichment and other pressures http://wfduk.org/resources/category/biological-standard-methods-201.

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

2.2 Additional information:

The UK Technical Advisory Group of the EU Water Framework Directive has published guidance on river flow standards to assess the risk to ecological status posed by alterations in flows across the flow regime; ecological indicators of the effects of abstraction and flow regulation and optimisation of flow releases from water storage reservoirs; river flow for good ecological potential; and abstraction and flow regulation pressures on river, lake, transitional and coastal water bodies http://wfduk.org/search/flow. See also Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Freshwater Habitats and Species https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/1b15dd18-48e3-4479-a168-79789216bc3d.

2.3	What, if any, initiatives have been taken to improve the sustainability of water use (or allocation of water resources) in the context of ecosystem requirements across major river basins (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12)? (Action 3.4.6.)	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; O= No Change; X= Unknown

2.3 Additional information:

River Basin Management Plans have been created for the whole of the UK https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-basin-management-plans-2015, https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/water-reports/river-basin-management-plans/river-basin-management-plans-published/, https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/, https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/water/river-basin-management. These set out how organisations, stakeholders and communities can work together to protect and improve the quality of the water environment. Each plan covers an entire river system, including river, lake,

groundwater, estuarine and coastal water bodies. They provide information on how future plans may affect an industry sector and its obligations, how to ensure a development proposal considers the requirements of the plan, how to apply for an environmental permit, and how to contribute to the delivery of the plan or maximise potential funding for a project. A review and update of the current set of river basin management plans published in 2015 is currently in progress.

Abstraction, drainage and altered water levels are recognised as major causes of damage to wetlands in England, contributing in part to groundwater bodies being below sustainable levels and river water bodies not attaining good ecological status https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-of-the-environment. Progress has, nevertheless, been made recently to reform the arrangements for managing water abstraction https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/abstraction-reform-report-2019. As a result, many billions of litres of water have been returned to the environment or recovered from unused or underused licences; progress has been made through four projects to develop a stronger catchment focus and maximise sustainable access to water; a number of flexible licensing approaches have been trialled; progress has been made on previously exempt abstractors that now require abstraction licences (in both England and Wales); and progress has also made on setting out the expectation that water companies should take a genuinely regional approach to producing plans that transcend company boundaries and include the water needs of other sectors.

Strategic approaches have been produced to support more integrated and sustainable approaches to the management of water resources, for example the Water Strategy for Wales https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/water-strategy.pdf.

On Bermuda, public water is defined as underground water and freshwater ponds; the Environment Authority grant water rights to extract, use and store public water through well-digging and extraction from underground freshwater lenses. On the Cayman Islands, water governance is focused on provision of desalinised municipal water to population centres.

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

2.4 Additional information:

Waterwise is an independent, not-for-profit UK NGO focused on reducing water consumption in the UK https://www.waterwise.org.uk/. It is the leading authority on water efficiency in the UK that supports and challenges governments, industry, customers and others to be innovative and ambitious on water efficiency. Work undertaken by Waterwise in partnership with the Environment Agency in 2019/20 included a Saving Water in the Garden Guide; research into public perceptions of rainwater harvesting and greywater; a retail switching guide to help businesses ask the right questions of their current or prospective retailer with regards to water efficiency; an irrigation guide on water efficiency for golf course managers; and a water efficiency office guide and posters https://www.waterwise.org.uk/waterwise-environment-agency/.

The Centre of Expertise for Water (CREW) is a Scottish Government funded partnership that had carried out projects and published research on major water policy drivers, including sustainable communities, water quality, flooding and coastal erosion, and catchment management https://www.crew.ac.uk/our-work.

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) has developed a natural flood management scheme along the Doniford and Monksilver streams in west Somerset, as one of 15 government supported pilot projects, by working with farmers, landowners, businesses and the wider community to reduce flooding affecting the town of Williton and surrounding communities. Together with partners, WWT has restored natural features across the catchment that have been lost or replaced over time by man-made structures. These include creating 10 new open water wetlands, installing 91 'leaky dams', and planting over 1,200 trees. Preliminary evidence indicates the new natural flood management (NFM) features – particularly woody dams – have boosted local biodiversity, with a rapid increase in insect diversity and abundance https://www.wwt.org.uk/our-work/projects/natural-flood-management/two-valleys-flood-prevention/.

The River Restoration and Biodiversity Programme is run under the auspices of the IUCN's UK National Committee and is supported by, amongst other organisations, the UK and Republic of Ireland's nature conservation and environment protection agencies. Through the development of a network of demonstration sites, the aim of the Programme's third phase is to illustrate principally the biodiversity benefits but also other benefits of restoring rivers. A variety of restoration techniques will be employed, and the ecological response monitored and appraised to provide robust assessments of success. This will be undertaken in accordance with the six principles and recommendations given in a report produced during the second phase https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46347. The third of these principles is 'Understand connections across rivers, floodplains, and the whole catchment'; the hydrological connectivity between some rivers and wetlands, and the importance of conserving each wetland system for the benefit of other associated systems will therefore be taken into account.

On the Isle of Man, Manx Utilities has a formal leakage strategy along with a number of water conservation groups with water conservation being a deliverable for some roles; they have also joined the UK lead group Waterwise.

The Wales Water Efficiency Group (WWEG) was formed in 2019 to prioritise water efficiency needs; further details on the approach to sustainable water management are included in the Natural Resources Wales Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020) https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/693313/sonarr2020-theme-resource-efficiency-water.pdf.

2.5 Percentage of households linked to sewage system? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	98%
	E=# percent

2.5 Additional information:

98% of urban and rural households were connected to the UK sewerage service in 2015 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-and-treated-water/water-and-treated-water#treated-water

Approximately 90% of the Isle of Man households (40,000) are connected to the public sewer system, with the remainder served by septic tanks or private sewage treatment works (3,800).

2.6	What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	E=99%
		E=# percent;
		F= Less than # percent;
		G= More Than # percent;
		X= Unknown;
		Y= Not Relevant

2.6 Additional information:

In 2016, the UK had 1,821 urban waste water agglomerations of more than 2,000 population equivalent (p.e). These agglomerations generated a total load of 71,093,713 p.e. Almost all (99%) of this load is connected to collecting systems, with only 1% addressed through Individual and Appropriate Systems (storage or septic tanks, micro-stations). These agglomerations are connected to one primary treatment plant, 1082 secondary treatment plants and 735 more stringent treatment plants. All these treatment plants have a total design capacity of 91,126,408 p.e. (source https://uwwtd.eu/United-Kingdom/).

The Isle of Man currently has 21 urban waste water agglomerations. 4 of these agglomerations are of more than 2,000 p.e. 18 of these agglomerations are served by secondary sewage treatment works, 3 have no sewage treatment. These agglomerations generate an estimated total load of 86,670 p.e. with 89% being connected to sewage treatment facilities.

Across the UK Overseas Territories the situation is varied. Some of the UK Overseas Territories do not have municipal sewerage and treatment takes the form of individual septic tanks, cesspits and package treatment plants. Some also face issues with lack of treatment, maintenance of wastewater treatment plants, and limited oversight.

2.7	What is the percentage of users of septic tank/pit latrine if relevant to your country? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	E=1%
		E=# percent;
		F=Less Than # percent;
		G= More Than # percent;
		X= Unknown;
		Y= Not Relevant

2.7 Additional information:

In 2016, the UK had 1,821 urban waste water agglomerations of more than 2,000 population equivalent (p.e). These agglomerations generated a total load of 71,093,713 p.e. Almost all (99%) of this load is connected to collecting systems, with only 1% addressed through Individual and Appropriate Systems (storage or septic tanks, micro-stations). These agglomerations are connected to 1 primary treatment plant, 1,082 secondary treatment plants and 735 more stringent treatment plants. All these treatment plants have a total design capacity of 91,126,408 p.e. (source https://uwwtd.eu/United-Kingdom/).

There are approximately 45,000 properties connected to the public sewer system on the Isle of Man, with a further 3,800 connected to private septic tanks or treatment works. Approximately 8% of properties on the Isle of Man are connected to private septic tanks or treatment works.

All new build houses on Bermuda must have septic tanks as specified in the building code, and septic tanks are also required in the British Virgin Islands.

2.8 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	A A= Yes, B= No; C= Partially, D=Planned X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant

2.8 Additional information:

Constructed wetlands/ponds are increasingly being used to treat wastewater in the UK.

A highly publicised example is the Ingoldisthorpe Wetland Creation project, a partnership between Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and Norfolk Rivers Trust https://norfolkriverstrust.org/ingoldisthorpe-wetland-creation-natures-own-water-treatment/. At a smaller scale, organisations such as the National Trust have incorporated wetland treatment systems into their properties. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) have treatment systems at all 10 of its sites to process wastewater from a range of sources, including municipal sewage and captive waterbird areas. A new wetland at Slimbridge has been constructed to improve water quality going into the reserve from off-exhibit captive birds and farming operations https://www.wwt.org.uk/news/2020/12/23/new-slimbridge-wetland-system-is-treat-for-water-and-wildlife/19871. WWT is also upgrading a treatment wetland at Castle Espie to improve performance and increase water quality flowing into Strangford Loch from a wastewater processing system, and has worked with Wessex Water to construct a research and development wetland on a rural sewage works to reduce phosphate concentrations in the outfall.

In Wales, constructed wetlands have been employed within the Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar Site through a LIFE project https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/our-projects/nature-projects/anglesey-and-llyn-fens-life-project/; this has proved effective in reducing inorganic nitrogen loadings to the sites and there is significant potential for their wider application within these sites in the after-LIFE phase and on other terrestrial wetland sites across Wales. Multiple constructed wetlands occur in Northern Ireland, including the Castle Archdale Integrated Construction Wetland (ICW). This has been constructed by Northern Ireland Water, the government owned company which provides water and sewerage services in Northern Ireland. This replaced the existing mechanical wastewater treatment works using an eco-friendly, sustainable approach to wastewater treatment https://www.niwater.com/sitefiles/resources/pdf/archdale_flyer_v6.pdf.

Constructed wetlands have been created to treat highway runoff, facilitated by a guidance manual https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-manual-for-constructed-wetlands. They are also used extensively for the treatment of abandoned mine waters: 75 plants treat metal rich mine water the majority of which are built and operated by the UK Coal Authority https://www2.groundstability.com/services/treating-mine-water-pollution/.

Most water companies in England are allocating considerable funds to investigate the installation of wetlands on wastewater treatment works to improve water quality. The focus is on sustainable, long term and low carbon solutions, and ecosystem services such as carbon capture and biodiversity net gain. Anglian Water have allocated £300m to wetland creation and river restoration projects.

Wetland construction is also supported by the agri-environment Countryside Stewardship scheme in England, which provides grant-aid towards the cost of constructed wetlands to treat field and farmyard diffuse runoff pollution, in conjunction with a feasibility study or a Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) design plan https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants/constructed-wetlands-for-the-treatment-of-pollution-rp8. WWT

guidance on the use of constructed farm wetlands has been published: http://www.wwt.org.uk/uploads/documents/1429707026_WWTConstructedFarmWetlands150422.pdf.

Revisions to planning policy and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in England recognise the role that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) have in managing surface water. They are increasingly being created to manage urban stormwater by mimicking natural drainage systems and encouraging infiltration, attenuation and passive treatment https://www.susdrain.org/. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency in partnership with others has produced a strategy to promote SuDS called Managing Stormwater https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/search?query=stormwater.

2.9 Number of wastewater treatment plants (or volume treated exist at national level)? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	E=~9,000
	E= # plants;
	F= Less than #;
	G=More than #;
	X= Unknown;
	Y= Not Relevant

2.9 Additional information:

The largest collection systems in the UK are linked to around 9,000 waste water treatment plants (2012 data), approximately 1,900 of which serve agglomerations of greater than 2,000 p.e., above which the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive secondary treatment standards applies to discharges from agglomerations made to freshwaters and estuaries, and to discharges from agglomerations of greater than 10,000 p.e. made to coastal waters https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69592/pb13811-waste-water-2012.pdf.

Specific update figures are available for sewage treatment works in England and Wales (n=7,078), sewage treatment works and community septic tanks in Scotland and Northern Ireland (n=10,814) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-and-treated-water/water-and-treated-water, and wastewater treatment plants across Wales (Hafren Dyfrdwy water company has 50 and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water 702).

On the Isle of Man, Manx Utilities currently operate 18 sewage treatment works, two of which serve agglomerations greater than 2,000 p.e.

2.10 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants? If relevant to your country SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	A A=Good; B=Not Functioning; C=Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant

2.10 Additional information:

In 2019, 98.9% of Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water wastewater treatment plants were compliant with their numeric permit conditions; Hafren Dyfrdwy 100% were compliant; and 95% of samples taken on the Isle of Man were within licensed limits.

2.11 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	X A=Good; B=Not Functioning C=Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant

2.11 Additional information:

90% of wastewater treatment plants in Wales are decentralised, i.e. not managed by commercial water companies, the great majority of which are single household plants.

The UK percentage currently cannot be provided.

[Note that reporting options do not match with the question for this section, which asks for a percentage figure – we have therefore selected 'X=Unknown'. Despite this, most decentralised wastewater treatment systems, including constructed wetlands, are thought to be functioning as designed].

2.12 Number of wastewater reuse systems (or volume re-used) and purpose? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	Unknown E= # systems

2.12 Additional information:

The UK has a long history of treating and recycling of wastewater. There are 7,078 sewage treatment works in England and Wales, 10,814 sewage treatment works and community septic tanks in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and 98% of urban and rural households connect to the UK's sewerage service https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-and-treated-water/water-and-treated-water.

Examples of smaller-scale wastewater reuse systems include the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) National Wetland Centre for Wales, which reuses water from the Llanelli Wastewater Treatment plant. At the WWT Washington site, water discharged from a Northumbrian Water treatment facility is used as a source of water. Several other WWT sites also treat and reuse water onsite, and other systems provide water for industrial use and golf-course irrigation.

On the Turks and Caicos Islands, wastewater reuse is required for all large-scale developments, and many households with package treatment plants also reuse wastewater for landscaping irrigation.

2.13 What is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system if relevant to your country ? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	Y R=Agriculture; S=Landscape; T=Industrial; U=Drinking; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

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

The main purpose of the wastewater reuse system in the UK is to remove the solid and dissolved nutrient load and other potential pollutants to ensure that standards on water quality and good ecological status of waterbodies, including rivers, lakes and coastal waters, are met. The UK is renowned for its ability to turn sewage into a resource. It strives to derive maximum value and benefit from wastewater, recycling it for reuse and harnessing sewage sludge to create energy and other products. Water Treatment Services are available for innovative water purification solutions, including the treatment of industrial wastewater and trade effluent, and rainwater and greywater recycling, e.g. https://watertreatmentservices.co.uk/.

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

2.14 Additional information: If Yes, please provide an example

There are a lot of constructed wetlands in the UK that are used as natural filters (see 8.1). Most water companies use wetlands for this purpose at some of their sites (e.g. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) has worked with Scottish Water, Wessex Water, Severn Trent and Southern Water). A good example is Wessex Water Cromhall wetland, designed by WWT, that used a Payment for Ecosystem Services model https://wwtonline.co.uk/features/refining-water-quality-management. Other examples include the London Wetlands Centre, which applies a range of waste water and reusing techniques before discharging into the Thames Estuary which supports a number of protected wetland areas; and treated wastewater is a source of water supply for the wetlands at the National Wetland Centre for Wales, which in turn provides tertiary treatment for the wastewater before ultimate discharge into the Burry Inlet Ramsar Site.

On Montserrat, a mechanical sewerage system services the Lookout Community with a population of over 500 people. The treated outflow is directed to the coast where it accumulates in a sandy-bottomed pond at the mouth of Brimms Ghaut which leads to Marguerita Bay.

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

3.1 Additional information:

Examples of the way the private sector in the UK is encouraged to conserve and make wise-use of wetlands are given below.

Planning policies have been developed to ensure that development plans take account of and minimise impacts on the natural and local environment, as well as providing opportunities for biodiversity improvement and net gain

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2. This includes placing an emphasis on key habitats identified as priorities for conservation, which include a wide range of wetland types https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-bap-priority-habitats/; adopting appropriate measures during works to prevent pollution of waterbodies and wetland sites, e.g. Guidance for Pollution Prevention 5: Works and maintenance in or near water https://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1418/gpp-5-works-and-maintenance-in-or-near-water.pdf; and promoting the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage urban stormwater (see 2.8). Recently, nutrient neutrality requirements in the Solent (for Nitrogen) and Somerset (for Phosphorus) are incentivising developers to consider well-designed wetlands to reduce nutrient impacts on sensitive sites, including Ramsar Sites https://www.push.gov.uk/2020/06/11/natural-england-published-nutrient-calculator-and-updated-guidance-on-achieving-nutrient-neutral-housing-development/.

Guidance and regulations have been produced so that farmers are able to take precautions and other steps to minimise aquatic pollution, whilst also sustaining their agricultural business. In England, the Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations 1991 sets minimum standards for the safe storage of silage, livestock slurry and certain fuel oils, and minimum construction standards and storage capacity requirements https://www.gov.uk/guidance/storing-silage-slurry-and-agricultural-fuel-oil; and the Farming Rules for Water (The Reduction and Prevention of Agricultural Diffuse Pollution (England) Regulations 2018 focus on encouraging good agricultural practice on all farms whilst avoiding nutrient and soil runoff, erosion and leaching https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rules-for-farmers-and-land-managers-to-prevent-water-pollution. Under the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015, more stringent rules to reduce nitrate pollution from nitrogen fertiliser and storage of manure are required in designated Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs), which cover approximately 55% of England that are either polluted or at risk of pollution from nitrates https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nitrate-vulnerable-zones. Agri-environment schemes and related guidance also provide targeted incentives to farmers to adopt appropriate management regimes to conserve, restore and create wetland habitats and to buffer waterbodies from pollutants whilst maintaining a profitable agricultural business (see 3.3).

Environmental permits are a statutory requirement to discharge liquid effluent or waste water (poisonous, noxious or polluting matter, waste matter, or trade or sewage effluent) into surface waters, e.g. rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters, or into or onto the ground, e.g. land spreading waste sheep dip or discharging treated sewage effluent to ground via an infiltration system https://www.gov.uk/guidance/discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwater-environmental-permits. Guidance is available on how businesses and organisations can avoid causing pollution from oil and chemical storage, car washing, construction and other activities https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pollution-prevention-for-businesses.

3.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the conservation, wise use and management of wetlands? {1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii:	A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
a) Ramsar Sites b) Wetlands in general	a) A b) A
3.2 Additional information:	

Examples of UK private sector initiatives with a particular focus on wetlands are outlined below.

The RSPB-Crossrail Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project recycled three million tonnes of earth from the London Crossrail tunnel excavation to create new wetland habitat in Essex, including seven artificial islands and bulldozing of 300m of the seawall to flood 115 hectares of farmland https://www.ice.org.uk/what-is-civil-engineering/what-do-civil-engineers-do/wallasea-island-wild-coast-project.

The Rivers Trust have set up a Water Stewardship Service https://www.theriverstrust.org/projects/water-stewardship/ to provide a 'one-stop-shop' to enable businesses to work effectively with the 108 catchment partnerships to implement on the ground activities that contribute to the sustainability of both the water environment and the businesses involved.

The Upstream Thinking project https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/environment/working-in-the-environment/upstream-thinking/ is a multi-award-winning catchment management scheme run by the South West Water company. The project applies natural landscape-scale solutions to improve water quality and supply and is delivered through a partnership with Westcountry Rivers Trust and Devon and Cornwall Wildlife Trusts, government agencies, environmental experts, landowners and tenant farmers, with the evaluation of catchment water quality change being undertaken by the University of Exeter. The second five-year Upstream Thinking programme was completed in 2020; it included working across 18 river catchments encompassing 80% of South West Water's drinking water catchments.

INTERREG projects, such as 'From Source to Tap', 'Catchment Care' and 'Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy' (SWELL), are aimed at protecting and improving water catchments in Northern Ireland, and have had benefits in areas that align with Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle Ramsar Sites.

Natural Resources Wales hosts an 'actions database' identifying site management priorities and key partners for designated sites. This is being used to engage public, private and voluntary sector organisations in taking forward management actions on sites.

The States of Alderney established a 'marine users' forum in 2017, which has contributed to the establishment of the voluntary no-go zone to protect areas sensitive to disturbance with support from the private sector. The Alderney West Coast and the Burhou Islands Ramsar Site is a major asset for the Alderney tourism sector.

On Jersey, the commercial sector is represented on the Ramsar Management Authority and plays an active role in advising management policy to ensure sustainable use of the sites. RIB boat operators have proposed a voluntary charge for passengers to support the management and conservation of the Jersey Ramsar Sites.

In Tristan da Cunha, the Conservation Department has worked closely with the UK, RSPB and the Percy FitzPatrick Institute (University of Cape Town) to study and protect the wetland values of Gough Island and Inaccessible Island Ramsar Sites. The private sector has been involved in wetland restoration initiatives in Anguilla. Nature based tours and bird watching has continued to be promoted on the British Virgin Islands and takes place in Anegada in the Western Salt Ponds Ramsar Site as a promoted tourism product.

On the Turks and Caicos Islands, some private sector companies, particularly those involved with sustainable tourism, have donated funds for wetland clean-ups and the provision of public awareness materials on an ad-hoc basis.

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

3.3 Additional information:

Examples of incentive measures to deliver wetland wise use objectives across the UK are provided below.

In England, the Countryside Stewardship agri-environment scheme offers payments to farmers and land managers to manage and create a wide-range of wetland types (e.g. coastal saltmarsh, wet grassland, fens, ponds) and support catchment sensitive farming https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants. A new scheme is under development which will reward farmers and land managers for producing public goods. The Environment Agency/Natural England Water Industry Strategic Environmental Requirements guidance provides a steer to water companies on environment, resilience and flood risk for business planning purposes, and sets requirements for meeting site condition targets for designated sites, including Ramsar Sites. The Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership has issued a Catchment Declaration to call on business, civil society organisations and the public sector to commit to the water catchment-related ambition in the UK Government 25 Year Environment Plan and to support activities to deliver successful catchment management https://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/resources/natural-resource-security-publications/catchment-management-the-declaration.

The Scottish Rural Development Programme (2014-2020) includes options to help restore and manage wetlands to deliver biodiversity, landscape and flood management benefits https://www.gov.scot/policies/agriculture-payments/scottish-rural-development-programme-srdp/. The Agri-Environment Climate Scheme has a section on supporting wetland, lowland bog and fen management; an option to manage grazing and restore peatlands in moorland areas; and a large range of capital items to help maintain water levels, restore peat or manage sites, including ditch blocking, wetland creation, control woody vegetation etc. In February 2020, the Scottish Government announced a substantial, multi-annual investment in peatland restoration of more than £250 million over the next 10 years, embedded in policy commitments within their Climate Change Plan https://www.nature.scot/climate-change/nature-based-solutions/peatland-action-project.

In Wales, a range of measures have been employed to achieve wise use, including Glastir agri-environment agreements, Section 16 agreements, EU LIFE funding and the Welsh Government Sustainable Management Scheme. The Glastir Entry scheme is designed to deliver general environmental improvements throughout Wales https://gov.wales/glastir#content. Glastir Advanced includes specific interventions in targeted areas to address key issues, including for wetlands. Measures and investments to improving water quality also featured under Glastir Small Grants https://gov.wales/glastir-small-grants-water-guidance and Farm Business Grants https://gov.wales/farm-business-grant. A National Peatlands Action Programme has been launched with a five year programme to restore target peatland bodies at a rate of 600-800 hectares annually year https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/strategies-and-plans/national-peatland-action-programme/.

The Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs runs an Environmental Farming Scheme to support farmers carry out environmentally beneficial practices https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/environmental-farming-scheme-efs. The higher level scheme targets designated sites and areas containing priority habitats or species. Management options depend on the habitat involved. Non-productive investments include creation of wetlands and scrapes, structures/work to raise water levels, and ditch blocking. The wider scheme includes measures to protect surface waters from diffuse pollution and run off through fencing and buffer strips.

On Jersey, the agricultural subsidy system has switched to a Rural Support Scheme to support environmental improvements, such as implementing water management plans and reducing nitrate use. Wetlands and Ramsar are specifically noted in the strategy, which is audited by LEAF https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/R%20Rural%20Economy%20Strategy%202017-2021%2020170213KLB.pdf.

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

3.4 Additional information:

The UK has taken a broad approach to identifying and removing perverse incentives. For example, it made a major contribution to the reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to incorporate greater environmental benefits, including better conservation of wetlands https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/common-agricultural-policy-reform. It has also reformed forestry policies to address inappropriate afforestation of peatlands. For example, The Woodlands for Wales (WfW) Strategy https://gov.wales/woodlands-wales-strategy is supported by a suite of policy position statements, including on Biodiversity and Water and Soils; these are also adopted in the UK Forestry Standard which sets out the approach of the UK governments to sustainable forest management, including a specific presumption against the conversion of some priority habitats and avoiding establishing new forests on soils with peat exceeding 50 cm in depth and on sites that would compromise the hydrology of adjacent bog or wetland habitats https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard. Natural Resources Wales provides Welsh Government with Ramsar data/maps to assist them with screening cases under the EIA Agriculture Regulation to protect sites from potentially negative impacts of agriculture intensification projects.

Measures have also been integrated into the national planning system that aim to ensure that potential impacts from development on wetland habitats, the aquatic environment and water resources are mitigated, e.g. through Environmental Impact Assessment https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment, impact risk zones https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-sites-and-areas-how-to-review-planning-applications, and measures to conserve and enhancing the natural environment https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/15-conserving-and-enhancing-the-natural-environment.

On the Turks and Caicos Islands, a plan for biodiversity management and sustainable development around the Turks and Caicos Ramsar Site has been developed under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Turks and Caicos Islands Government and with financial support from UK Government and others. This works through wide-ranging co-

operative action with the local people, local Government and other institutional stakeholders, and enables local people to protect the area by generating sustainable usage involving eco-tourism-based activities, as well as education http://www.ukotcf.org/pubs/tci_ramsar.htm. Other inland wetlands, which continue to face pressures from development and lack legal protection, would benefit from a similar approach, as well as greater levels of protection.

Target 4. *Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.*
{Reference to Aichi Target 9]

4.1 Does your country have a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

4.1 Additional information:

In the UK, the Non-native Species Information Portal http://www.nonnativespecies.org/factsheet/index.cfm provides access to distribution data for over 3,000 non-native species, as well as additional information such as place or origin, date of introduction and methods of introduction. For 300 species, more detailed information is provided, including information on identification, impacts and control methods. A horizon scanning exercise occurred in 2019, which identified the top 30 non-native species likely to become invasive in Great Britain over the next ten years http://www.nonnativespecies.org//index.cfm?pageid=611.

An Alien Species Alarm List https://www.wfduk.org/resources/alien-species-alarm-list has been produced that contains species whose presence has not yet been recorded in Great Britain that are thought to pose a risk to surface waters and their ecological status under the EU Water Framework Directive. This is accompanied by guidance on the assessment of alien species pressures and a classification of the level of impact https://www.wfduk.org/resources/.

In Wales, Invasive Non-native Species (INNS) of the greatest concern are identified in two national lists (the Wales Biodiversity Partnership INNS Priority Species for Action in Wales https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Invasive-Non-Native-Species-Group adopted in 2018 and the Welsh Government Marine INNS Priority Monitoring and Surveillance Species List https://gov.wales/invasive-aquatic-species-priority-marine-species). The Welsh Government has also worked with the Wales Biodiversity Network Atlas to develop an INNS Portal https://lle.gov.wales/catalogue/item/InvasiveNonNativeSpeciesINNSPortal/ to increase access to information about INNS and their distribution in Wales. The Special Sites Database held within Natural Resources Wales identifies management units within Welsh Ramsar Sites where INNS are identified as an issue and any action taken to manage them.

In 2017, Jersey published a review of Marine INNS, including horizon scanning for impending threats https://www.gov.je/Government/Pages/StatesReports.aspx?ReportID=3366.

The Isle of Man has uploaded its biodiversity database onto the National Biodiversity Network Atlas Isle of Man, including records on INNS https://isleofman.nbnatlas.org/.

In May 2018, all six UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean took part in a horizon scanning workshop exercise lead by the Non-Native Species Secretariat for Great Britain to identify potential new invasive species. The Government of Anguilla Environment Unit-Department of Natural Resources maintains an INNS species database/list, the Bermuda Natural History Museum has a comprehensive biodiversity database that contains all known species on the island, including INNS, and the Cayman Islands have an initial invasive species inventory. Invasive plant species have been inventoried in the British Virgin Islands through a partnership between the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands and the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. On the Cyprus Sovereign Base Area, INNS (mainly *Acacia*) have been mapped in the Ramsar Sites, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. On Turks and Caicos, good progress is being made in the recovery of endemic Caicos Pine, whose main habitat is wetland, following devastation by invasive species introduced accidentally by humans.

Further information on INNS in the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies is available via http://www.nonnativespecies.org/ots/otsMap.cfm.

4.2 Have national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management been established or reviewed for wetlands? {1.9.2} KRA 1.9.iii	A
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

4.2 Additional information:

The Great Britain Invasive Non-native Species Strategy (2015) is the main INNS policy driver in Great Britain https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-great-britain-invasive-non-native-species-strategy. This provides a coordination framework for actions and improves coordination of research, encourages sharing of information, and raises awareness of INNS issues. A UK Programme Board provides coordination between the four UK administrations e.g. in the development of tools and measures, and also where the administrations are pursuing individual priorities within a devolved implementation framework. For example, the INNS Working Group of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/ is a source of expertise and promote awareness, best practice, data sharing and action to tackle INNS in Wales; in Northern Ireland, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Department of Environment has published an Invasive Alien Species Strategy to minimise risks and reduce negative impacts caused by invasive alien species, with a first review and update of the Implementation Plan produced in 2018 https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/invasive-alien-species-strategy-northern-ireland. GB risk assessments have continued to be produced for new species www.nonnativespecies.org, a rapid response approach has been developed, and joint information and awareness raising campaigns undertaken.

On Alderney, sites specific policies on invasive species have been developed, including guidance in the Alderney Ramsar Site five-year management strategy. On the Isle of Man, a Marine Biosecurity Plan has been launched and will shortly be posted on new web pages. Jersey is preparing an INNS strategy for deployment in 2021 and working with the BIC Invasive Species sub group to develop management plans for aquaculture and harbours.

Being predominantly islands, the UK Overseas Territories are very vulnerable to the introduction of potentially harmful INNS, recognised as the biggest threat to island biodiversity, food security and sustainable development http://www.nonnativespecies.org/ots/otsMap.cfm. A national policy on invasive species control is being drafted by the Government of Anguilla Environment Unit-Department of Natural Resources. The Bermuda Government published a management plan for the Red-eared Slider Terrapin in 2017 https://environment.bm/s/RedEared-Slider-management-plan-for-Bermuda.pdf; future priorities include removal of terrapins from the Pembroke Marsh, Paget Marsh and Somerset Long Bay Pond Ramsar Sites, feral pigeons from the Spittal Pond Ramsar Site, and feral chickens from all Ramsar Sites. On the British Virgin Islands, an assessment of the extent of Casuarina pine intrusion into the wetlands has been undertaken https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS016/. On the Cayman Islands, a draft national policy on invasive species control has been prepared. On the Falkland Islands, invasive thistles continue to be controlled at Bertha's Beach Ramsar Site, and a restoration programme on the Gough Island Ramsar Site, Tristan da Cunha, is planned for 2021, including the eradication of house mice which is impacting globally threatened seabird species https://www.goughisland.com.

4.3 Has your country successfully controlled through management actions invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems?	A A=Yes; B=No; X= Unknown

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

Many invasive non-native species require management to limit their deleterious effects and much mitigation and control work is currently being carried out by a wide range of organisations in the UK. The Great Britain Non-native Species Projects Database covers non-native species projects of all sizes in Great Britain, from local action group projects to nationwide surveys http://www.nonnativespecies.org/maps/index.cfm. Guidance is available on listed invasive non-native animals and plants in England and Wales, https://www.gov.uk/guidance/invasive-non-native-alien-animal-species-rules-in-england-and-wales, https://www.gov.uk/guidance/invasive-non-native-alien-plant-species-rules-in-england-and-wales, and on the control of Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-japanese-knotweed-from-spreading, https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-01/himalayan-balsam-controlling-it-on-your-land.pdf.

Within the Alderney Ramsar Site, Hottentot fig continues to be successfully controlled. On the Isle of Man, the Manx Shearwater Recovery Project continues to remove occasional remaining/incursive rats in its effort to achieve eradication from the Calf of Man to protect the seabird colonies.

Rats were successfully eradicated from two of Anguilla offshore cays (Dog Island in 2012 and the Prickly Pear cays in 2018), and an operational plan for the eradication of mice from the Sombrero Island Ramsar Site has been completed with the eradication scheduled for May-July 2021. This project is led by the Anguilla National Trust, Fauna and Flora International, and Wildlife Management International Ltd, and supported by the Government of Anguilla. On the Cayman Islands, initial control of certain invasive species is showing partial success (eradication is unlikely), specifically for lionfish and green iguanas. On the Cyprus Sovereign Base Area, *Acacia saligna* has been removed on a regular basis from designated sites; efforts have focused on the Eastern Sovereign

Base Area of Dhekeleia (Cape Pyla Special Area of Conservation); the intention is to also remove it from the Western SBAs and a post-removal management and habitat restoration scheme has been proposed.

On the Turks and Caicos Islands, some management/control of the Caicos pine tortoise scale insect was achieved through the Caicos Pine Recovery Project, but significant species and habitat losses were still realised and funding is not available for ongoing control and habitat restoration. A Darwin Plus project https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS055/ successfully controlled rodent and cat populations that threatened the Critically Endangered Turks and Caicos Islands Rock iguana. However, without ongoing funding for control, invasive species such as these are likely to re-establish.

4.4	Are there invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems that have not been successfully controlled through management actions?	A A=Yes; B=No; X= Unknown

4.4 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please provide examples, including the species name and the challenges to management)

Control of a significant number of highly invasive non-native wetland species continues to be problematic. In the UK, these include New Zealand pigmyweed, signal crayfish, zebra mussel, various invasive shrimp species and more – factsheets for many INNS are available http://www.nonnativespecies.org/factsheet/index.cfm.

Biosecurity measures are critical to prevent high-risk species from establishing and to slow their spread. Many freshwater and marine species are exceptionally difficult to control once established, as effective methods of eradication are not easy to design. The impact of the only effective control measure in an aquatic environment can also be very environmentally damaging, e.g. 'entombing' ponds or wetlands where New Zealand pigmyweed is present. Even where effective control methods exist, physical constraints or the sensitivity of wetland sites means tackling invasive species can be challenging, e.g. removing Himalayan balsam from Crymlyn Bog Ramsar Site due to health and safety issues. Other sites have commercial or other constraints, e.g. using pesticide to remove Topmouth gudgeon from a reservoir that provides potable water. Some infestations can take years to successfully eradicate, while some widespread species are unlikely to be totally eradicated and need to be controlled for the foreseeable future, e.g. American mink. Short-term funding cycles are often not compatible with the life cycle of invasive species control projects.

The Invasive Non-native Species Priority Species for Action in Wales list and Welsh Government Marine Invasive Non-Native Species Priority Monitoring and Surveillance Species List of Wales are the priorities for INNS control and management in Wales. The number of species listed demonstrate that there are many INNS of high risk to wetland ecosystems that have not been successfully controlled.

On Alderney, the Asian shore crab (*Hemigrapsus sanguineus)* and wireweed (*Sargassum muticum)* have recently established within the intertidal marine environment, for which no practical conservation measures are currently available. On Sark, the bryozoan *Watersipora subatra* has increased after was first being observed in 2014. On Jersey, the invasive Asian bryozoan (*Watersipora alata*) has become an increasing issue across areas of shade on rocky shores; wire weed has also become an established problem in large rockpools and shallow channels; and the American slipper limpet (*Crepidula fornicata*) now forms dense mats likely replacing disturbed maerl beds.

On Bermuda, a plan is being developed to tackle an ornamental coralberry (*Ardisia*) that has invaded large areas of Paget Marsh Ramsar Site. On the Cayman Islands, invasive logwood plants (*Haematoxylum campechianum*) have established in seasonal wetlands across Grand Cayman; limited control occurs in protected areas, but it is too widespread to control more widely.

Coral reef ecosystems on the Turks and Caicos Islands are being significantly impacted by the invasive *Pterois* Lionfish and an un-named pathogen causing Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease. Practical measures to control these have proved difficult to enact. Wetland habitats are also threatened by invasive floral species, including *Casuarina equisetifolia* and *Scaevola taccada*, which invade coastal areas and undermine shoreline stability, and *Leucaena leucocephala*, which invades inland areas and outcompetes and replaces native floral assemblages. Management strategies to control such species are urgently required.

		C
4.5	Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

4.5 Additional information:

Effectiveness assessment and on-going biosecurity monitoring is a component of some control programmes. For example, regular bulletins were produced for the eradication of the Ruddy Duck http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=244, as were results of trials to investigate the potential for treatments to control *Crassula helmsii* in New Forest ponds https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/other-projects/controlling-crassula-helmsii/controlling-crassula-helmsii-impact-options/. Long-term monitoring is necessary to ensure that eradications are successful and to detect reinvaison, e.g. rat populations on remote islands such as Dog Island and Prickly Pear cays, Anguilla. However, control is often piecemeal, site-specific, relies on limited funding or takes place outside of a coordinated programme, and is not always assessed or reported in a coherent way.

To facilitate sharing and documentation of best practice, the Great Britain Non Native Species Secretariat have compiled a database of management and research projects on non-native species being carried out in Great Britain http://www.nonnativespecies.org/maps/index.cfm.The Scotland Species Action Framework handbook provides an assessment of projects to control American mink, signal crayfish and New Zealand pigmyweed in Scotland https://www.nature.scot/species-action-framework-handbook.

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

5.1 Additional information:

A total of 176 Ramsar Sites have been designated across the UK (n=150), the Crown Dependencies (n=9), and UK Overseas Territories (n=17). This includes Sombrero Island Nature Reserve Marine Park, north-west of the mainland of Anguilla, which was designated in May 2018. In addition, consultations have been undertaken in 2019 on two proposed Ramsar Sites in Northern Ireland, Derryleckagh and Teal Lough. The Isle of Jersey is developing proposals for designation of freshwater wetlands as Ramsar Sites, and to extend the south-east coast Ramsar Site to cover extensive seagrass beds north of its current limit. Whilst there is no specific strategy for Ramsar Site designation, the UK Government and relevant national, regional and local NGOs continue to work with Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies to help facilitate further site designations as requested.

5.2	Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.1} KRA 2.2.ii	B A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned

5.2 Additional information:

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum 2005 review of wetlands qualifying as Ramsar Sites in the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies is still being used to progress candidate sites https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/conventions/ramsar-2/, but progress in fully designating proposed sites is the responsibility of the respective OT Governments. RSPB is currently implementing a Darwin Plus funded cross territory wetlands management project on restoring and safeguarding wetlands of the Caribbean https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS098/. This includes Montserrat, which has not designated any Ramsar Sites. This is due partly to the destructive impacts of the volcanic eruptions during 1995-2010, which destroyed most of the coastal wetlands, although the main proposed site of the Centre Hills wet forest and ghauts [ravines] remains a valid proposed site. Conservation bodies in Turks and Caicos have raised the need to consider inclusion of several Ramsar Sites on the Turks and Caicos Islands, as originally proposed in UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum 2005 review for the UK Government and Governments of the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. The Anguilla National Trust maintains a wetland inventory which is used to help identify wetlands of importance, including those that could potentially qualify as Ramsar Sites.

5.3	How many Ramsar Sites have a formal management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	E= 125 E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.4	Of the Ramsar Sites with a formal management plan, for how many of these is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i	E= 123 E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.5	Of the Ramsar sites without a formal management plan, for how many is there effective management planning currently being implemented through other relevant means e.g. through existing actions for appropriate wetland management? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	E=24 E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

5.3 – 5.5 Additional information:

About 75% of all UK Ramsar Sites, including those in UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, have some form of management planning that is being implemented effectively. These include management plans developed in association with their designation as National Nature Reserves, SACs, SPAs and/or SSSIs http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5642141770448896.

Other examples include the dedicated management plan for the Alderney Ramsar Site http://www.alderneywildlife.org/sites/default/files/ramsar_management_strategy_2017-2021.pdf. Whilst Sark does not have a site-specific Ramsar management plan, it participates in the Channel Island Ramsar Initiative, which includes a common code of conduct for Ramsar Sites across the Channel Islands to ensure that these special areas are enjoyed responsibly without disturbing or harming the wildlife and habitats for which they are significant http://www.ci-ramsar.com/. The core area of the Ramsar Site on the Isle of Man owned by Manx National Heritage has a specific management plan, and some privately-owned areas have management agreements. In addition, there is a draft action plan for wetland remediation works in the core area under the Action For Wildlife programme.

The Anguilla National Trust has worked with local partners (Fisheries and Marine Resources Unit-Department of Natural Resources and other stakeholders) and international organisations (Fauna and Flora International, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Wildlife Management International Ltd., Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust) to secure funding from the UK Government, the European Commission, and other donors to support the development of management plans for the East End Pond Conservation Area, Road Salt Pond, and the Prickly Pear cays. Plans are in place to develop a management plan next year for the Sombrero Island Ramsar Site as part of Darwin Plus-funded project https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS086/.

The Tristan da Cunha Government is working closely with stakeholders and partners to develop an updated management plan for Tristan da Cunha, Gough and Inaccessible Islands, as part of the ambitious programme of conservation action (see www.goughisland.com).

A preliminary management plan for the Turks and Caicos Islands Ramsar Site was developed in 2002, partly under a Darwin Initiative grant. After initial successes and implementation, concerns have been raised about subsequent progress with the management recommendations.

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

5.6 Additional information:

In the UK, the effectiveness of the management of Ramsar Sites has been assessed via site condition monitoring. This has largely been based on Common Standards Monitoring, which provides an agreed approach to the assessment of condition on statutory sites designated through UK legislation and international agreements https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/common-standards-monitoring/. Information on the current condition of the 73 Ramsar Sites in England reveals that 56% of the total area of these sites is in favourable condition (i.e. the condition objectives for the interest features are being met) and 44% is in unfavourable condition, with most of the latter judged to be recovering rather than stable or declining (79% v 21%) https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SearchEngland.aspx (accessed 1 February 2021). In Scotland, 76% of the Ramsar Site features are in favourable or recovering condition, with the remaining 24% of features in unfavourable condition.

In recent years, an emphasis has been placed on taking a risk-based approach to prioritising and planning monitoring programmes, and whilst the resources available for and the frequency of protected area monitoring has reduced and remains challenging (especially for Ramsar Sites where there are also often other co-designations), there have been technological advances in environmental monitoring and changed thinking about conserving nature at different spatial scales and the dynamic nature of ecosystems.

5.7	How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.4} {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	E= 18 sites E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X=Unknown, Y=Not Relevant;

5.7 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

67 Severn Estuary
534 Llyn Idwal
562 Burry Inlet
702 Booby Pond and Rookery
937 Strangford Lough
984 Spittal Pond, Bermuda
985 Somerset Long Bay Pond, Bermuda
990 Paget Marsh, Bermuda
1043 South East Coast of Jersey, Channel Islands
1104 Sea Lion Island, Falkland Islands
1375 Akrotiri, Cyprus Sovereign Base Area
1455 Les Écrehous and Les Dirouilles, Jersey

1456 Les Minquiers, Jersey
1457 Les Pierres de Lecq, Jersey
1868 Gough Island, Tristan da Cunha
1869 Inaccessible Island, Tristan da Cunha
2354 Sombrero Island Nature Reserve Marine Park*
2277 Herm, Jethou and The Humps
* the Sombrero Island Nature Reserve Marine Park cross-sectoral management committee operates through a marine park management mechanism

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Sites; D=Planned

7.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):

Any party can raise concerns directly with the Government department that is responsible for the protection of Ramsar Sites and they should then initiate an investigation process.

Potential issues can be flagged up as most UK Ramsar Sites are also protected as European sites (SACs/SPAs), noting that the site protection provisions provide a mechanism analogous to Ramsar Article 3.2 provisions. In summary, a formal procedure must be followed in cases where a plan or project, not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a site, is likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. Such plans or projects shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment, the competent authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. Only in exceptional circumstances can a plan or project be approved in spite of it having an adverse effect provided that the procedural safeguards laid down in the Habitats Directive are followed, as articulated in associated case law.

Potential issues will also be flagged up by via site monitoring of the condition of protected areas https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/common-standards-monitoring/ and via the legal requirement to seek permission to carry out potentially damaging operations on SSSIs https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-areas-sites-of-special-scientific-interest.

On Anguilla, the National Trust and Government Department of Natural Resources conducts monitoring within the Sombrero Island Ramsar Site, with any potential changes being reported.

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Cases; O=No Negative Change

7.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):

Negative human-induced change can be at a variety of scales and have varying implications for the maintenance of the ecological character of a site. The consequences can range from essentially short-term and small-scale, to sufficiently significant, long-term and site-wide to warrant listing a site on the Montreux Record following formal procedures. Where appropriate, cases of human-induced negative change have been reported to the Secretariat (see 7.3 below). The UK tracks whether change occurs through its statutory site monitoring protocols and in most cases believes that management action and the regulatory systems in place will be sufficient to remedy issues which have been observed.

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

7.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):

The UK is making good progress to address the issues affecting the two Ramsar Sites it has listed on the Montreux Record (Dee Estuary and Ouse Washes).

Natural Resources Wales and Natural England have undertaken a substantial review of the issues raised by the Ramsar Secretariat on the reasons behind the listing of the Dee Estuary Ramsar Site on the Montreux Record. This review has been presented to Government for discussion in the near future. It considers the issues raised originally and provides an update on progress in addressing these in light of our current knowledge. The main threats continue to come from development pressures, pollution, and disturbance through recreation (including wildfowling).

The habitat creation project to improve the conservation condition of the Ouse Washes has been underway since 2007 led by the Environment Agency (EA), balancing flood control and conservation interests. Planning permission for the first habitat creation site at Coveney was secured in September 2013 and construction of the first phase completed at the end of October 2015. The EA will continue to progress a second phase of habitat creation at Coveney plus an additional site at Sutton. Together, these projects could deliver around 330 ha of new wet grassland habitat, which is expected to make an important contribution towards offsetting the observed deterioration.

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned

8.1 Additional information:

Creating a comprehensive national wetland inventory across the UK, UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies would be a major, and likely unobtainable, task. The UK has, nevertheless, amassed an impressive array of inventory data, ranging from comprehensive general land cover maps to more detailed site-based surveys of wetland habitat types, vegetation communities and wetland species (which vary in the type of information recorded, spatial coverage and comprehensiveness). Amongst the major inventories are the:

- CEH UK Land Cover Maps https://www.ceh.ac.uk/ukceh-land-cover-maps;
- CEH UK Lakes Portal https://eip.ceh.ac.uk/apps/lakes/index.html;
- CEH Digital River Network of Great Britain https://www.ceh.ac.uk/services/150000-watercourse-network;
- Priority Habitat inventories for England https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx (select the 'Habitats' layer);
- Northern Ireland https://appsd.daera-ni.gov.uk/nedmapviewer/;
- Natural Resources Wales Terrestrial Phase 1 Habitat Survey of Wales http://lle.gov.wales/catalogue/item/TerrestrialPhase1HabitatSurvey/;
- EUNIS Land Cover Map of Scotland https://map.environment.gov.scot/sewebmap/;
- inventories of Coastal Vegetated Shingle, Saltmarsh, Sand Dune Vegetation, other NVC Habitats, Freshwater habitats, Wetlands and Native Woodland in Scotland https://www.nature.scot/landscapes-and-habitats/habitat-map-scotland, https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/habitats-and-species/habitat-map-of-scotland/;
- wetland species records available via the National Biodiversity Atlas https://nbnatlas.org/ and British Trust for Ornithology https://bto.org/our-science/projects/wetland-bird-survey.

The inventory of UK Ramsar Sites and other protected areas, including wetlands, is available via the:

- JNCC website https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-protected-areas/;
- MAGIC website https://magic.defra.gov.uk/home.htm;
- Scotland Environment Map https://www.environment.gov.scot/maps/scotlands-environment-map/;
- NIEA Natural Environment Map Viewer https://appsd.daera-ni.gov.uk/nedmapviewer/;
- Natural Resources Wales geographic information map viewer https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/browse-map-of-data-about-the-natural-environment/.

Ongoing work to extend the UK wetland inventory is planned. This includes the Natural Resources Wales Lowland Peatland Survey, which provide details of over 250 priority lowland peatland sites in Wales and produce inventories of lowland raised bog and alkaline fen habitats. The Wales Peatland Action Programme will produce peatland habitat inventories based on the new national peat map of Wales being developed under contract to Welsh Government http://lle.gov.wales/catalogue/item/UnifiedPeat.

The Isle of Man 2007 wetland inventory is held by Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA). A new map of terrestrial habitats is being created based on satellite data, which may allow comparison with previous habitat surveys from the 1990s. Manx Wildlife Trust and DEFA are working on a critical peat mapping process https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/projects/isle-man.

Wetland inventories and maps of wetland habitats have been produced in UK Overseas Territories, for example:

- Anguilla has a habitat inventory maintained by the Anguilla National Trust;
- a wetland inventory has been completed in Cyprus by Terra Cypria, which includes wetlands within the Cyprus Sovereign Base Area; the Akrotiri wetland complex is also included in the 2014 BirdLife Inventory of Important Bird Areas for Cyprus;
- in Bermuda, robust maps exist for shoreline and nearshore marine habitats, inland ponds and peat marshes (saltmarshes are not well mapped); the island-wide aerial photo mosaic was updated in November 2019 and new hydrographic mapping conducted; wetland species data is held in the biodiversity database and natural history library at the Bermuda Natural History Museum;
- wetlands in the Cayman Islands were comprehensively mapped in 1988; the remaining wetland land cover is updated by the Cayman Islands Department of Environment approximately every five years using periodically updated aerial imagery;
- the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands has recently published an Environmental Atlas of natural resources.

8.2 Has your country updated a National Wetland Inventory in the last decade?	C1 A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; C1= Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

8.2 Additional information:

The UK has amassed an impressive array of wetland inventory data (see 8.1). Examples of recently published or updated information include:

- the UKCEH Land Cover Maps for 2017, 2018 and 2019 which are based on UK Biodiversity Action Plan Broad Habitats LCM2019, LCM2018 and LCM2017 https://www.ceh.ac.uk/services/lcm2019-lcm2018-and-lcm2017;
- GIS layers of Priority River Habitat (England) https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/priority-river-habitat-rivers-england and Priority River Headwater Areas (England) https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/priority-river-habitat-headwater-areas-england;
- an updated inventory of Alkaline Fen and Transition Mire and Quaking Bog habitats in England https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/annex-1-alkaline-fens-transition-mire-quaking-bog-polygons.

Repeat monitoring of the condition of UK protected areas has also taken place, including Ramsar Sites and other areas of wetland habitat, as part of the periodic monitoring and reporting of Sites of Special Scientific Interest

http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6232097035386880, https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SearchEngland.aspx, https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-areas/site-condition-monitoring.

Since monitoring started in 1947, the scheme which started as the National Wildfowl Counts has developed and grown over to include all waterbirds. The methodology has remained largely unchanged throughout. The primary objectives of what is now the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) https://bto.org/our-science/projects/wetland-bird-survey were established from the early days of the survey: determining trends in numbers of wintering waterbirds, identifying important sites and determining population size. Over 8,000 UK wetlands have been counted at least once, with typically 2,800 being covered each winter in recent times. The online WeBS Alerts portal www.bto.org/webs-reporting-alerts contains assessments of the smoothed trends of all waterbird species present on each of 84 SPAs, 206 SSSIs and 18 ASSIs over five-year, 10-year and long-term (up to 25-year) periods, and since the baseline period (typically that at the time of designation) used for individual sites.

In the UK Overseas Territories, the habitat inventory in Anguilla was last updated in 2017 by the Anguilla National Trust, and the island-wide aerial photo mosaic in Bermuda was updated in November 2019 and new hydrographic mapping conducted.

The UK Government and the devolved administrations, and many of the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, are assessing the potential to map detailed habitats using Earth Observation techniques. Challenges remain in relating the wetland habitat types that can be assessed (and monitored) using this approach to those in the Ramsar Convention wetland typology.

		A
8.3	Is wetland inventory data and information maintained? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

8.3 Additional information:

In the UK, as well as some Crown Dependencies and UK Overseas Territories, a number of government bodies and NGOs maintain wetland inventory and protected area information, and, in some cases, make information available via dedicated websites (see 8.1).

		A
8.4	Is wetland inventory data and information made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

8.4 Additional information:

A number of government bodies and NGOs in the UK, as well as in some Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories, maintain wetland inventory and protected area information; in some cases, such information is made available via dedicated websites (see 8.1).

The UK is a signatory to the Open Data Charter, which sets out international principles for the availability of public data. Government has made wide-ranging policy

commitments to promote open accessibility and reuse of public sector information. As a matter of policy formal outputs from publicly funded scientific research are made freely available in open access publications. All public authorities in the UK have a legal obligation to proactively disseminate environmental information that they hold, including data from monitoring of activities that could affect the environment, to the public by electronic means. A wealth of environmental data published by central government, local authorities and public bodies are available – see 8.1 for details and also https://data.gov.uk/, https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/, http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/, https://www.gov.scot/, https://www.nature.scot/information-hub, https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/land/wetlands/, https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/, http://lle.gov.wales/home.

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

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

Available information indicates that during 2013-18 there was a modest decline in the overall condition of wetland habitats as a whole across the UK. It is assumed that in subsequent years this trend has continued. The picture is less clear for wetland habitats within Ramsar Sites. This is based on the trends in the condition of 43 wetland habitat types recognised under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive as reported by the UK in 2019 https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/article-17-habitats-directive-report-2019-habitats/. These wetland habitats included types of coastal dune, shingle, saltmarsh and lagoons, freshwater rivers and lakes, inland saltmeadow, wet and montane heath, poorly-drained grassland, bog, fen and flush vegetation, bog woodland and alluvial forests.

The trend was reported as stable for 24 of these habitat types; decreasing for 13 types; and increasing in only one case (the trend for the other five habitats was uncertain). The habitats with a decreasing trend included types of coastal sand dune and saltmarsh, wet heath, damp grassland, alkaline fen and flush vegetation. This is considered sufficient evidence to conclude that there has been a modest decline in the overall condition of wetland habitats in the UK during the last triennium.

The trend direction for the part of each Annex I habitat that occurred within the designated SAC series was also reported. This trend was stable for 23 habitat types; decreasing for eleven habitats; and increasing for eight habitats (the trend for the other habitat was uncertain). Whilst the same trends might have applied to the Ramsar Site series, the degree of overlap with the SAC series is limited, and this information is considered insufficient to reach to a firm conclusion on the overall trend in condition for all wetlands within Ramsar Sites during the last triennium.

Anguilla reports no deterioration in the condition of wetlands, with on-going wetland restoration work funded by Darwin Plus having taken place since the passage of

Hurricane Irma in September 2017. The Cayman Islands similarly reports no change in the condition of the Booby Pond and Rookery Ramsar Site and wetlands in general, although unquantified loss of wetlands to residential and commercial development has reduced the overall extent of wetlands. Sark reports no change in the usage of the Gouliot Caves and Headland Ramsar Site.

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 51,063.535 km^2 [All types (marine/coastal and inland) = >51,063.535 km^2; Marine/coastal types = >12,202.22 km^2; Inland types = >38,861.315 km^2; Human-made types = X = Unknown]
	E= # km^2; G=More than # km^2; X= Unknown

8.6 Additional information:

According to the Ramsar definition and classification of wetlands, provide the disaggregated information on wetland extent. 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”.

Estimates of the area of marine/coastal and inland Ramsar wetland types that are known to occur in the UK are presented below. This does not include the UK Overseas Territories or Crown Dependencies. The figures for inland habitat types are based on published sources. The figures for marine habitats are based on a combination of published sources and novel analyses of selected GIS datasets. Types C, I, P, Q, R, Ss, Vt, Zg and Zk(a) do not appear to occur in the UK. Extent figures were not assembled for human-made Ramsar wetland types.

Marine/coastal types (km^2)

- Type A Permanent shallow marine waters less than six metres deep at low tide, B Marine subtidal aquatic beds, D Rocky marine shores, F Estuarine waters, and G Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats = 11,343.75
- Type E Sand, shingle or pebble shores = 444.72
- Type H Intertidal marshes = 361.32
- Type J Coastal brackish/saline lagoons = 52.43
- *Total of all marine/coastal types = 12,202.22*

Inland types (km^2)

- Types M Permanent rivers/streams, N Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams, and L Permanent inland deltas = 640
- Types O Permanent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha), Tp(a) Permanent freshwater pools/ ponds (below 8 ha) on inorganic soils (not including marshes/swamps), Ts(a) Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater pools on inorganic soils (not including marshes/swamps), dystrophic pools/ponds <8 ha [for which there is no corresponding Ramsar type], K Coastal freshwater lagoons [which have been included as an inland freshwater type rather than coastal type to mirror how this type is classified in the UK] = 2,650
- Type Sp Inland permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools = 0.005

- Types Tp(b) Permanent freshwater marshes/swamps on inorganic soils (not including pools/ponds), and Ts(b) Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/swamps on inorganic soil (not including pools/ponds), U Non-forested peatlands, Va Alpine wetlands, and Y Freshwater springs = 34,775.89
- Types W Shrub-dominated wetlands, Xf Tree-dominated wetlands, and Xp Forested peatlands = 795.42
- *Total of all inland types = 38,861.315*

A range of issues were encountered in the translation of the Ramsar wetland classification to the habitat/wetland classification systems used in the UK. This included uncertainties about the intended scope of the Ramsar wetland types and how to best align recognised UK wetland habitat types that had been defined in different ways. To make the reporting on the extent of Ramsar wetlands in the UK reasonably straightforward, a pragmatic approach was taken to the interpretation, scope and alignment of Ramsar and UK wetland types, especially so that extent figures that had already been produced could be utilised; and in many cases this meant it was necessary that several Ramsar wetland types were grouped together to report on their extent. An explanation of the issues, approach taken and data sources used in the compilation of the UK extent figures is available below in the supplementary text for section 8.6. Contact the Joint Nature Conservation Committee for further details.

Extent figures are available for the main wetland habitats on the Isle of Man, but these do not directly align to Ramsar wetland types.

If the information is available, please indicate the % of change in the extent of wetlands over the last three years.

This information is not available.

Supplementary text to be read in conjunction with the 'additional information' provided under section 8.6 (on the extent of wetlands)

Extent figures are presented below in Tables A1/A2 and B1/B2 for inland and marine/coastal Ramsar wetland types that occur in the UK. This does not include the UK Overseas Territories or Crown Dependencies, apart from the Isle of Man for which figures are presented separately (see Table C1). The UK figures are based on a combination of published sources (Tables A1/A2) and novel analyses of selected GIS datasets (Tables B1/B2).

The approach assumed that, irrespective of their origin or past/current management/land-use: (i) the marine/coastal and inland wetland types A-Zk(b) are represented by wetland habitats that are of moderate-high biodiversity importance; and (ii) human-made Ramsar wetland types 1-9 and Zk(c) are represented by wetland habitats of low biodiversity importance. Although this potentially differs from (or is at least not made clear in) the explanatory information accompanying the Ramsar wetland classification, this interpretation aligns with the strategic focus of the Ramsar Convention, which is the wise use and conservation of wetlands. It also makes reporting on the extent of Ramsar wetland types more straightforward and meaningful.

Translation between the Ramsar wetland classification and UK classification systems proved to be problematic. The Ramsar wetland classification is a simple global classification system with only brief descriptions of the 42 types. It is intended to be comprehensive, but it is not always straightforward to use at a national-level because of the

lack of precision and apparent duplication between certain categories, and also certain omissions. It is recognised that the system was not intended as a general mechanism for national inventory purposes, and that its usefulness as a habitat classification for any specific wetland inventory should be carefully assessed, given that it does not readily accommodate descriptions of all wetland habitats that are now commonly included in national wetland inventories. Supporting contextual information provided by the Ramsar Convention on the Ramsar wetland types is limited and some of the sub-divisions are not commonly used in UK habitat classification systems. The intended scope of some of the sub-divisions is difficult to understand and alignment with potentially relevant UK wetland habitat types, which have been defined in different ways, is not always obvious or straight-forward.

To make the reporting on the extent of UK wetlands reasonably straightforward, a pragmatic approach was taken to the interpretation, scope and alignment of Ramsar wetland types with UK habitat types, particularly those for which readily available UK extent figures had already been produced for other purposes. As a result, some of the Ramsar wetland types were combined to report on their extent and some of the correspondences between the potential scope of Ramsar wetland types and UK habitat types were simplified.

Extent figures were not assembled for any human-made Ramsar wetland types. Types that did not appear to occur in the UK included: I. Intertidal forested wetlands; P. Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); Q. Inland permanent saline/ brackish/alkaline lakes; R. Inland seasonal/ intermittent saline/brackish/ alkaline lakes and flats; Ss. Inland seasonal/ intermittent saline/brackish/ alkaline marshes/pools; Vt. Tundra wetlands; and Zg. Geothermal wetlands. It was assumed that type C. Coral Reefs did not include deep-sea cold-water coral reef or additional areas of biogenic reef (created by, for example, reef forming worms, mussels, oysters and maerl) which occur in UK waters. In addition, it was unclear whether the Ramsar type Zk(a). Karst and other Subterranean hydrological systems occurred in the UK waters. Whilst it was clear which features this type covered in terrestrial settings (primarily limestone karst underground cave and tunnel systems), it was uncertain which habitat types/features it should encompass in the marine/coastal environment. It potentially includes the Annex I type H8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves, however these are mainly formed through erosion of differential geology rather than any hydrological influence, and are open to the sea. There are no known subterranean cave systems in the UK coastal environment. It was assumed that this type did not extend to deeper waters and is not intended to accommodate gaseous submarine systems/structures, produced where methane leaks form deep-water carbonate structures (covered by the Annex I type H1180 Submarine structures made by leaking gases).

Table A1. UK extent figures for Ramsar wetland types based on published sources

Ramsar wetland type	England (ha)	Scotland (ha)	Wales (ha)	Northern Ireland (ha)	UK (ha)
E Sand, shingle or pebble shores	11,714	27,731	3,793	1,234	44,472
H Intertidal marshes	22,482	5,623	7,787	240	36,132
J Coastal brackish/saline lagoons	1,445	3,537	84	177	5,243
M Permanent rivers/streams, N Seasonal/ intermittent/irregular rivers/streams, L Permanent inland deltas	29,000	21,000	8,000	6,000	64,000
O Permanent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha), Tp(a) Permanent freshwater pools/ ponds (below 8 ha) on inorganic soils (not including marshes/swamps), Ts(a) Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater pools on inorganic soils (not including marshes/swamps), K Coastal freshwater lagoons, together with dystrophic pools/ponds <8 ha	97,000	88,000	18,000	64,000	265,000 (a)
Sp Inland permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	0.5	0	0	0	0.5
Tp(b) Permanent freshwater marshes/swamps on inorganic soils (not including pools/ponds), Ts(b) Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/swamps on inorganic soil (not including pools/ ponds), U Non-forested peatlands, Va Alpine wetlands, Y Freshwater springs	594,518 (b)	2,423,312 (b)	204,390	246,191 (b)	3,477,589 (b)
W Shrub-dominated wetlands, Xf Tree-dominated wetlands, Xp Forested peatlands	20,000	44,742	12,200	2,600	79,542

(a) UK total is slightly less than the sum of the country figures due to rounding of figures and other methodological approaches used in Countryside Survey 2007
(b) the figures are incomplete as values for Reedbeds in Scotland and Upland fens, flushes and swamps in England and Northern Ireland were not available

Table A2. Corresponding habitat types and data sources used to derive extent figures shown in Table A1

Ramsar wetland type	Corresponding habitat types and (in brackets) data source
E	EU Habitats Directive Annex I habitat types H1210, H1220, H2110, H2120, H2130, H2140, H2150, H2160, H2170, H2190, H21A0, H2250 (JNCC Article 17 reporting 2019)
H	EU Habitats Directive Annex I habitat types H1310, H1320, H1330, H1420 (JNCC Article 17 reporting 2019)
J	EU Habitats Directive Annex I habitat type H1150 Coastal Lagoons (JNCC Article 17 reporting 2019)
M, N L	UK BAP Broad Habitat Rivers and Streams (Countryside Survey 2007)
O, Tp(a), Ts(a), K	UK BAP Broad Habitat Standing Water and Canals (Countryside Survey 2007)
Sp	EU Habitats Directive Annex I habitat type H1340 Inland salt meadows (JNCC Article 17 reporting 2019)
Tp(b), Ts(b), U, Va, Y	UK BAP Priority Habitat Reedbed (2008 UK BAP reporting round); Reedbed (NE State of Environment Report 2008); UK BAP Priority Habitat Lowland fen (2008 UK BAP reporting round); UK BAP Priority Habitat Upland flushes, fens and swamps (2008 UK BAP reporting round); Upland fen, marsh and swamp (Scotland's State of the Environment Report 2014); Upland fen, marsh and swamp (Natural Resources Wales (2016) State of Natural Resources Report), UK BAP Priority Habitat Purple moor grass and rush pastures (2008 UK BAP reporting round); Lowland marshy grassland (Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pastures) (Natural Resources Wales (2016) State of Natural Resources Report); H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* (JNCC Article 17 reporting 2019); H4020 Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica ciliaris* and *Erica tetralix* (JNCC Article 17 reporting 2019); H4080 Sub-Arctic *Salix* spp. scrub (JNCC Article 17 reporting 2019); H6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels (JNCC Article 17 reporting 2019); UK BAP Priority Habitat Lowland raised bog (2008 UK BAP reporting round); H7130 Blanket bogs (JNCC Article 17 reporting 2019); UK BAP Priority Habitat Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (2008 UK BAP reporting round); Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (NE State of Environment Report 2008); UK BAP Priority Habitat Lowland meadows (2008 UK BAP reporting round)
W, Xf, Xp	UK BAP Priority Habitat Wet woodland (UK BAP reporting round 2008); Wet woodland (Native Woodland Survey of Scotland 2014)

Table B1. UK extent figure for Ramsar wetland types based on novel analyses of selected GIS datasets

Ramsar wetland type	UK (km^2)
A Permanent shallow marine waters less than six metres deep at low tide	7,769.45
B Marine subtidal aquatic beds	1,117.14
D Rocky marine shores	238.11
F Estuarine waters	3,149.09
G Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	3,095.98
A Permanent shallow marine waters less than six metres deep at low tide, B Marine subtidal aquatic beds, D Rocky marine shores, F Estuarine waters, and G Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	11,343.75 (c)

(c) this total combined extent of wetland types A, B, D, F and G (calculated via GIS) is less than the sum of the extent of each of the individual constituent wetland types, due to locations where two or more of the wetland types overlap.

Table B2. Description of datasets used to derive extent figure shown in Table B1

Ramsar wetland type	Description of datasets
A	The lowest limit of shallow marine waters was defined using an internally produced JNCC dataset (2019), produced from the Defra Digital Elevation Model, supplemented by the 2018 version of the EMODnet Bathymetry Digital Terrain Model where the Defra Digital Elevation Model was not available; the upper boundary was defined using chart datum based on a Defra Marine Reference Dataset held at JNCC, which contained polygons of the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) depth areas
B	Based on Essential Ocean Variable layers for: (i) macroalgal canopy and (ii) seagrass; obtained from the EMODnet Seabed Habitats web portal – note that maerl beds were not included as it was unclear if the intended scope of this type was meant to extend to algal coralline beds
D	Based on an extraction from the JNCC EUNIS Level 3 Combined Map for the UK of EUNIS habitat types: A1 Littoral rock and other hard substrata; and B3.1 Supralittoral rock (lichen or splash zone), supplemented with Phase 1 habitat data for Wales from Natural Resources Wales for H1.2 Intertidal mud/sand, H1.3 Intertidal boulders/rocks, and H.4 Boulders/rock above the high tide mark
F	Based on the Annex I habitat H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide shapefile produced by JNCC for the Habitats Directive 2019 UK Article 17 reporting
G	Based on the Annex I habitat H1130 Estuaries shapefile produced by JNCC for the Habitats Directive 2019 UK Article 17 reporting

Extent figures for the main wetland habitats in the Isle of Man are given in Table C1, based on the technical report accompanying the Isle of Man Wetland Inventory Executive Summary (Tomlinson, P., July 2007).

Table C1. Extent of main wetland habitats in the Isle of Man

Broad habitat type	Area in hectares
Natural non-linear water bodies	7.3
Swamp	19.7
Man-made non-linear water bodies	132.4
Selected wet woodland and scrub	311.9
Wet heathland	342.4
Selected coastland	570.6
Mire	637.9
Marshy grassland	1,067.1
Intertidal	1,654.6
Shallow marine waters	13,915.4
Total	18,659.2

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

For Anguilla/Anguilla National Trust, the main need is financial assistance primarily to support the cost on the assessment of offshore cays (boat transportation costs and GPS monitoring units).

For Bermuda, it might be possible to undertaken a pilot survey if some guidance and a template were provided.

For the Turks and Caicos Islands, financial assistance and technical advice to carry-out a quantitative assessment of the extent, and species and habitat composition of wetlands is required.

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned

9.1 Additional information:

Instead of a specific national policy for wetlands, the UK has integrated the sustainable use of wetland resources into a wide-range of policies, regulations, statutory mechanisms and other measures. This includes the Government 25 Year Plan for the Environment in England, which recognises the need to support, protect, restore and create wetlands and peatlands, protect communities from flooding by slowing rivers and sustaining more wetlands to reduce flood risk, and ridding rivers and seas of rubbish. In Scotland, the Scottish Government has published its Biodiversity Strategy post-2020 Statement of Intent and Edinburgh Declaration, which aim to promote the use of nature-based solutions, such as peatland restoration, to mitigate and adapt to climate change, tackle flooding, improve water quality and benefit biodiversity. In Wales, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Welsh Government Natural Resources Policy similarly endorses the importance of delivering nature-based solutions, developing resilient ecological networks, and maintaining, enhancing and restoring floodplains and hydrogeological systems. The Act also includes a requirement for Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to embed the principles of sustainable management of natural resources throughout the way it works.

A Specific UK Peatland Strategy was launched in 2018 to drive and co-ordinate action on peatland conservation and management across the UK, supported by country-level plans and a range of activities (see 12.3). National Plans have been published in Scotland, and are in production for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Biodiversity conservation is also an essential component of the UK Forestry Standard, which also recognises the role of forests in water regulation and purification, the need for forestry to avoid adverse impacts on watercourses and water quality, and to avoid afforestation where this could damage wetland habitats (see 3.4).

National planning policies have been developed that aim to ensure appropriate protection and environmental and ecological impact assessments are conducted for proposed plans and projects that could potentially damage protected wetland sites and key wetland habitats (see 13.1). Other policies have led to the production of integrated plans to protect and sustainably manage river basins, flood risk and shorelines (see 9.3), the reform of water abstraction arrangements in England with a stronger catchment focus and to maximise sustainable access to water (see 2.3), and measures to protect wetland ecosystems and water bodies from pollution from agriculture, wastewater and industrial sources (see 3.1).

On the Isle of Man, the Island Strategic Plan protects watercourses and wetlands from demonstrable harm https://www.gov.im/categories/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/development-plan/strategic-plan/. The island also has is a Biodiversity Strategy for 2015-2025 https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/biodiversity-strategy-and-delivery-plan/, and the new agricultural strategy incorporates a range of environmental strategies and an agri-environment scheme that supports the reintroduction, where appropriate, of wetland habitats. The Future Fisheries strategy includes an ecosystem approach to safeguarding the marine environment and aims to achieve sustainable fish stocks and marine development and exploitation in harmony with the environment https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/fisheries-directorate/future-fisheries-strategy/. Action on plastic pollution has been taken through two Single Use Plastics Reduction Plans.

Anguilla does not have a Wetlands Policy, but this has been highlighted as a policy that should be developed.

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

9.2 Additional information:

The National Planning Policy Framework for England states that listed or proposed Ramsar Sites should be given the same protection as SPAs and SACs https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2. The Scottish Government policy on Ramsar Site protection notes that this is achieved through co-designation of Ramsar Sites with SPAs/SACs and/or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) https://www.gov.scot/publications/implementation-of-scottish-government-policy-on-protecting-ramsar-sites/. Ramsar Sites in Wales are also protected as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, which means that they have legal protection and guidelines for management https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/sites-protected-by-european-and-international-law/. Ramsar Sites are afforded similar protection in Northern Ireland and Planning Policy Statement 2 states that the procedures under the Habitats Regulations also apply to Ramsar Sites https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/retained-planning-policy.

The Alderney West Coast and the Burhou Islands Ramsar Site is integrated into the Island Land Use Plan, and the Jersey 2011 Island Plan (currently being updated) covers wetlands and specifically references the Ramsar principles in considering any action that may impact upon wetland areas. A proposed Alderney Wildlife Law, which integrates considerations of wise use and brings together existing legislation and planning policy is under development (currently under public consultation).

The Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016, under the Town and Country Planning Act 1999, notes the Ramsar Convention and the ‘wise use of wetlands’ and provides protective policies. This is further backed up by policies on habitat protection and remediation within Managing our Natural Wealth, The Island’s First Biodiversity Strategy, 2015-2025, for which a mid-term audit has been published https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/environment-directorate/ecosystem-policy-and-energy/wildlife-biodiversity-and-protected-sites/biodiversity-strategy-and-delivery-plan/.

On the Cayman Islands, the National Conservation Law requires local planning authorities to consult with the National Conservation Council on planning applications affecting primary habitats, which include mangrove wetlands. EIAs now have a formal legal framework in the Cayman Islands, again under the National Conservation Law.

Under the Bermuda Plan 2018, all areas of mangroves, the main freshwater marshes and a number of uninhabited offshore islets have been zoned with a Nature Reserve Zoning – regardless of whether they are actual protected areas or not. This protective zoning is quite strict.

On the British Virgin Islands, the approved Green Paper on the Environmental Management and Climate Adaptation bill (2020) advocates for the declaration of wetlands as Environmentally Sensitive Area.

An amendment to the Turks and Caicos Islands National Parks Ordinance allows the designation of any wetland habitat as a Critical Habitat Reserve, although to date none have been progressed.

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 A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned

9.3 Additional information:

River Basin Management Plans have been created for the whole of the UK https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-basin-management-plans-2015, https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/water-reports/river-basin-management-plans/river-basin-management-plans-published/, https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/, https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/water/river-basin-management. The plans contain details of individual river basins and features of the catchment, including individual rivers, lakes and groundwater, estuarine and coastal water bodies. A review and update of the current set of River Basin Management Plans (published in 2015) is currently in progress.

These are complimented by Flood Risk Management Plans, which have been prepared for areas within a river basin district where flood risk is considered to be significant https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/flood-risk-management-plans-frmps, https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding/local-frm-plans/.These cover all major rivers, the sea and reservoirs, and local sources of flooding including surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater. Flood Risk Management Plans are reviewed, updated and published every 6 years as a requirement of the Flood Risk Regulations 2009. In Scotland, a set of Flood Risk Management Strategies has been created for each Local Plan District to coordinate efforts to tackle flooding https://www2.sepa.org.uk/frmstrategies/.

In addition, Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) have been developed which identify the most sustainable approach to managing the flood and coastal erosion risks to the coastline https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shoreline-management-plans-smps.

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 A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned

9.4 Additional information:

Stakeholder engagement is a key element in the approach to delivering and developing the River Basin Management Plans. The Wales Water Management Forum has cross-sectoral representation (land managers, water companies, agriculture, conservation, recreation and business) and plays an important role in developing the River Basin Management Plans. In Northern Ireland, the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) produces a river basin management plan for Northern Ireland. Integrated Catchment Planning also involves anyone who is interested in, or may be affected by, the water environment and the way in which it is managed. Catchment Officers continually work with stakeholders across the River Basin Districts https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/delivery-and-public-participation. Under the auspices of the England Terrestrial Biodiversity Group and the Catchment Based Approach Support Group, guidance has been being produced to help catchment partnerships in England to incorporate freshwater and wetland biodiversity planning into their catchment management plans.

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

9.5 Additional information:

As part of the UK Adaptation Policy and associated UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA), five-yearly assessments of major risks and opportunities from climate change are produced. The 2016 evidence report outlined risks in six key areas, including flooding and coastal change, water deficit impacts on freshwater ecology, natural capital and biodiversity, and new and emerging pests, diseases and non-native species. The National Adaptation Programme sets out a strategy to address the main risks and opportunities identified for England; the Devolved Administrations have their own adaptation programmes https://www.theccc.org.uk/preparing-for-climate-change/uk-adaptation-policy/.

An Adaptation Manual has been prepared for England to help conservation managers and advisors make informed decisions about adaptation; this covers 27 habitat types, including wetlands such as bogs, rivers and wet grasslands http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5629923804839936.

The National Peatlands Action Programme https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/about-us/strategies-and-plans/national-peatland-action-programme/ has been developed to address the biodiversity crisis and climate change emergency in Wales. This includes an initial five year programme of restoration and has six priority action themes, including erosion, drainage, sustainable management of peatlands and afforested/hyper-modified peatlands, which are the main areas of concern to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and secure carbon storage.

The Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaption Programme 2014 states that the restoration of habitats is a vital management tool to enable the natural environment to cope with the additional stress caused by climate change. This supported the restoration of priority habitats, peatlands and wetlands through EU integrated projects https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-climate-change-adaptation-programme-2014-2019.

Since 2012, the Scottish Government has funded peatland restoration through the Peatland Action project managed by NatureScot, in recognition of the importance of active peatland in storing carbon and tackling climate change. As a result, over 25,000 ha of peatland have been moved towards recovery. In 2020 the Scottish Government announced £250 million in funds to the project over the next 10 years https://www.nature.scot/climate-change/nature-based-solutions/peatland-action-project.

The Isle of Man Programme for the Achievement of Climate Targets (IMPACT) report was submitted in October 2019. This set out options for targets and actions to achieve net zero by 2050, with support from the Climate Change Emergency Transformation Team. Peatland restoration has already been progressed with a target of restoring a minimum of 1000 acres. A Climate Change Bill is being debated by the Isle of Man Government https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/cabinet-office/climate-change-isle-of-man/.

A range of materials related to climate change adaptation, mitigation and ecosystem services in the UK Overseas Territories has been published by JNCC https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/d201d6dc-a411-4ee5-b2a8-b6fa754ebf71. The UKOT Conservation Forum will include a session on 'Coping with recovery after hurricanes and natural disasters by building resilience' in its 2021 conference. The Bermuda National Trust produced a national report on climate change in 2008, outlining the role of wetlands in mitigating climate change, particularly on the coast https://www.bnt.bm/images/newslettersandreports/Climate%20Change%20Report%202008.pdf. With funds from Darwin Plus, the Departments of Disaster Management and Natural Resources and Anguilla National Trust have worked with Environment Systems Ltd to create coastal ecosystem vulnerability and opportunity maps to increase coastal resilience to climate change. On the British Virgin Islands, the Climate Change Adaptation Policy highlights the importance of mangroves to its adaptation measures http://bvi.gov.vg/climatechange.

9.6 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.4} {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

9.6 Additional information:

Evidence on measures to intercept agricultural field run-off using Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) has been collated by the Environment Agency https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-sustainable-drainage-systems; see also http://www.ccri.ac.uk/rsuds/. These measures aim to reduce loss of soil, chemicals, nutrients, faecal organisms and localised flooding, and can provide valuable aquatic habitats in the form of micro-wetlands, such as constructed wetlands, grip/gully blocks, sediment ponds, wet riparian buffer strips, and wetlands within ditches. The Countryside Stewardship scheme provides targeted grant-aid towards Rural SuDS and other forms of management of key wetland habitats to encourage their use in viable farming systems https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants. The England Catchment Sensitive

Farming (CSF) initiative also helps deliver practical solutions and targeted support to enable land managers to take voluntary action to reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture https://www.gov.uk/guidance/catchment-sensitive-farming-reduce-agricultural-water-pollution. It gives free training and advice in high priority areas, on subjects such as manure, nutrient and pesticide management, flood management, and silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oil regulations.

Options for the productive use of wet and re-wetted peatlands to allow for long-lasting, sustainable cultivation of peatlands was examined at the Paludiculture UK 2017 Working with our wetlands workshop, which was organised by Natural England and the Cumbria Wildlife Trust and supported by the IUCN UK Peatland Programme http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6562663605993472. A summary of existing knowledge around wetland farming/paludiculture in a UK context was commissioned by the IUCN UK Peatland Programme's Commission of Inquiry on Peatlands https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/COIFens_ProductiveLowlandPeatland.pdf.

9.7 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on: a) agriculture-wetland interactions b) climate change c) valuation of ecosystem services {1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned a) A b) A c) A

9.7 Additional information:

a) Interactions between agriculture and wetlands were reviewed in the UK National Ecosystem Assessment Technical Report, which considers the impacts of fertiliser, pesticides, nutrient run-off and other pollutants, tillage and re-seeding, drainage, and changes in grazing and burning on a range of wetland habitats http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Resources/tabid/82/Default.aspx.

b) A major review of the potential impacts of climate change on bird populations associated the UK Special Protection Area (SPA) network was published in 2013 http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=2&ProjectID=16731 (summarised by Johnston, A. et al. 2013. Observed and predicted effects of climate change on species abundance in protected areas. Nature Climate Change 3: 1055-1061).

The Living with Environmental Change (LWEC) partnership has produced a series climate change impacts report cards that present the latest evidence on how climate change affects different aspects of the UK environment, economy and society http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/partnerships/ride/lwec/report-cards/.

A scientific review of Peatlands and Climate Change was commissioned by the IUCN UK Peatland Programme https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/about-peatlands/peatland-benefits/climate-regulation.

The UK Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership has produced an extensive series of scientific report cards that provide a comprehensive understanding on current and future impacts of climate change on UK seas and coasts based http://www.mccip.org.uk/.

On the Isle of Man, an assessment of predicted climate change effects was produced by Acclimatise and community discussions followed.

c) Natural capital accounts for peatlands have been produced for the Office for National Statistics, which measure the ecosystem services which nature provides from this dramatic landscape, including water, carbon sequestration, food and recreation https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/bulletins/uknaturalcapitalforpeatlands/naturalcapitalaccounts.

The UK Natural Capital Committee has provided independent advice to government on natural capital, such as ecosystems, soils, freshwaters, and oceans, and recently published 'Green Book' guidance on embedding natural capital into public policy appraisal https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/natural-capital-committee.

The IUCN UK Peatland Programme has also produced a briefing note on Natural Capital Financing for Peatland, which highlights opportunities for financing peatland restoration and conservation and proposes a framework for structuring such finance https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/funding-finance/natural-capital. The related Peatland Code provides a means of validating the carbon gains achieved through peatland restoration and thus offers a tool for promoting investor confidence – a second version 2 of the code is under development https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/funding-finance/peatland-code.

A report on the economic value of Bermuda's Coral Reefs https://environment.bm/coral-reef-economic-valuation, an economic valuation of the importance of beaches and associated habitats on the British Virgin Islands, and an initial review of natural capital accounting on the Turks and Caicos Islands have been undertaken https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/0766c05e-0cfb-4510-81cd-b768701bce32. In addition, cross-territory Darwin Plus-funded project is involved in ecosystem valuation services on Anguilla, and a habitat valuation project is being undertaken for the Jersey Island Ramsar Sites through Plymouth University.

The Dasgupta Review https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review, commissioned in 2019 by HM Treasury, provides an independent, global review on the Economics of Biodiversity. It sets out how countries and the global economy should account for nature in economics and decision-making; and demonstrates the critical need to assess the value of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, including those delivered by healthy functioning wetlands e.g. through the restoration of mires in Exmoor, England.

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

9.9	Has your country made efforts to conserve small wetlands in line with Resolution XIII. 21?	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
9.9 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate what actions have been implemented):		

Examples of conservation projects targeted at small wetlands sites include the Million Ponds Project, which aimed to create an extensive network of new ponds across the UK to reverse a century of pond loss. This is a collaboration of partners, including major landowners and land managers, led and coordinated by the Freshwater Habitats Trust https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/million-ponds/. In the New Forest, south England, a wetland restoration project focused on small areas of rare bog woodland and riverine woodland habitat https://www.hlsnewforest.org.uk/projects/wetland-restoration/. On Sark, orchid conservation has been undertaken in the Creux Belet valley by volunteers clearing other flora surrounding the stream and preventing livestock from encroaching. The Anguilla National Trust, along with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Environment Systems Ltd, completed flood modelling for the East End Pond to determine the role the pond has on flood control/water catchment and opportunities to reduce flood impact. A new project within the Akrotiri Ramsar Site (Cyprus Sovereign Base Area), which is funded to a large extent by the NGO MAVA Foundation and co-funded by the SBAS, Republic of Cyprus government departments and the NGO Terra Cypria, has just started and will focus on conservation and restoration actions at important wetlands, such as blocking access points to sensitive areas, placing interpretation signs and purchasing specialised equipment to improve enforcement actions.

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned

10.1 Additional information: (If yes please indicate the case studies or projects documenting information and experiences concerning culture and wetlands).

A comprehensive review summarising available information about the potential of peatlands to preserve historical evidence and describe the distribution of known archaeological sites in peatlands in the UK is available from the IUCN UK Peatland Programme https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/about-peatlands/peatland-benefits/culture-history. The discusses the unique character of the peatland historic environment and its relation to policies regarding 'cultural value', and considers current and possible future threats to the resource, including changes in land use and anthropogenic factors, synergies with climate change and possible conflicts with current policies and management.

The cultural importance of Lough Beg, Northern Ireland, is recognised in the poetry of the late poet Seamus Heaney who was born nearby. This cultural relationship with the landscape has been recorded in recent conservation projects, e.g. the Lough Beg Futurescapes project http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/Images/Futurescapes%20-%20Lough%20Beg%20Wetlands_tcm9-253586.pdf, and peatland and wetland habitat restoration around the Lough Neagh basin through support for Rebuilding the Countryside Programme http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/Images/Blanket_Bog_sm_tcm9-335643.pdf.

In Wales, the Snowdonia National Park has recently completed a project entitled Cyfoeth Ein Corsydd (roughly translated in English as “The richness of our marshes”) to research, celebrate and promote the history of human utilisation of peatlands in Wales. The project collected oral and documentary records, undertake educational visits for school and other groups and produced a statis and traveling exhibition https://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/looking-after/projects/cyfoeth-ein-corsydd.

The Anguilla National Trust is completing a socio-economic assessment of the Sombrero Island Ramsar Site, a key component of this is cultural heritage/use.

As part of the development of the original management plan, sustainable traditional uses of the Turks and Caicos Islands Ramsar Site were documented and highlighted as avenues for developing sustainable livelihoods and small businesses. A later project assessed the viability of alternative and improved livelihoods based on traditional cultural ecotourism within the East Caicos Ramsar Site (Wood, K., and Stark, D. 2018. Assessing the Viability of Alternative and Improved Livelihoods in Ecotourism at the East Caicos Key Biodiversity Area. Cornell University Sustainable Tourism Asset Management Program).

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	a). A b). A
a)	stakeholders, including local communities and indigenous people are represented on National Ramsar Committees or similar bodies	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned
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;	
	(Resolution VII. 8) (Action 6.1.5)	

10.2 Additional information: (If the answer is “yes” please indicate the use or application of the guidelines)

A Marine Parks Management Planning Committee was established on Anguilla in 2017, as part of a Darwin Plus-funded project that focused on the Prickly Pear Marine Park and cays. This Committee will assist with the development of a management plan for the Sombrero Island Ramsar Site (as part of the Sombrero Island Marine Park and Nature Reserve). The core Committee is comprised of representatives from Government of Anguilla agencies (including the Fisheries and Marine Resources Unit-Department of Natural Resources), the Anguilla National Trust, fisherfolk, dive operators, and charter boat operators. Other individuals are included as needed, depending on the marine park and its users (current and potential).

Effective management of the Sark Ramsar Site is implemented using local knowledge and periodic conservation activities organised by the NGO Société Sercquaise.

Across the UK, volunteer participation is encouraged in many National Nature Reserves, such as the Humberland Peatlands, including practical habitat and access management, scientific surveying, events and wardening, social media and administration http://www.humberheadpeatlands.org.uk/.

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned

10.3 Additional information:

The Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership in Northern Ireland, working in partnership with government, environmental organisations and the local community, secured a £2.49 million grant through a Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership programme to deliver 27 integrated projects around the lough shore over five years (2016-2021) https://www.loughneaghlp.com. Landscape Partnership schemes put heritage conservation at the heart of rural regeneration, by conserving habitats at a landscape-scale, promoting joined-up management and reviving long-lost skills http://www.discoverloughneagh.com/landscapepartnershipunderway/.

The RSPB Reedbed management handbook includes detail of traditional reed-cutting techniques http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/Images/bringing_reedbeds_to_life_tcm9-385799.pdf. The UK Fen Management Handbook covers the use of traditional breeds, grazing and harvesting regimes, and products https://www.nature.scot/fen-management-handbook.

Traditional knowledge is being collected through the socio-economic assessment for the Sombrero Island Ramsar Site on Anguilla. This knowledge will be incorporated in the site management plan.

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

11.1 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, how many wetlands and their names):

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 ensures that an assessment of the resilience and sustainable management of natural resources in Wales is reported every five years through the publication of a State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR); the report for 2020 provides information on the diversity, extent, condition and connectivity and benefits of key ecosystems in Wales, including wetlands https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/state-of-natural-resources-report-sonarr-for-wales-2020/. The 2014 Scotland State of the Environment report provided an assessment of the environment and how it is changing across Scotland, including a chapter on water and a specific section on wetlands https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/state-of-the-environment/2014-state-of-the-environment-report/. Natural England produced a comprehensive state of the natural environment report in England in 2008, including information on the importance, extent, protection, condition and trends of open waters and wetland habitats

http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/31043. The Environment Agency produced a report on the state and trends of soil, air quality, water resources and water quality in England in 2018 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-of-the-environment.

River Basin Management Plans have been created for the whole of the UK, which contain information on the condition and pressures affecting freshwater and coastal water bodies (see 9.3)

The UK National Ecosystem Assessment reviewed the state and value of the UK natural environment and ecosystem services, including wetlands, based on a comprehensive synthesis of information on ecosystems, ecosystem services and the interlinkages between habitats, ecosystem services and biodiversity http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/.

A comprehensive review of the importance and ecosystem services of peatlands has been produced by the IUCN UK Peatland Programme, including wildlife habitat, global carbon store, drinking water filtration, flood prevention, historical archive, grazing land and recreational areas https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/about-peatlands/peatland-benefits.

An assessment of carbon budgets and potential blue carbon stores in Scotland's coastal and marine environment has been conducted https://www.nature.scot/naturescot-commissioned-report-761-assessment-carbon-budgets-and-potential-blue-carbon-stores. Research by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) and Manchester Metropolitan University at Steart Marshes indicates that the carbon accumulation rate for restored saltmarsh is far greater than estimates for terrestrial ecosystems such as forests; this work, and the wider importance of blue carbon, has been promoted by WWT https://features.wwt.org.uk/blue-carbon/index.html#article. In addition, a terrestrial carbon assessment was undertaken of Guernsey in summer 2020, including the terrestrial sections of its Ramsar Sites; and carbon storage in the Central Mangrove Wetland of Grand Cayman has been assessed (Childs et al (2015) Ecosystem services provided by two potential protected areas in the Cayman Islands. National Trust for the Cayman Islands).

Preliminary ecosystem service assessments have been made for the Isle of Man as a whole for terrestrial and marine areas; ecosystem services are being investigated on Anguilla as part of a cross-territory Darwin Plus-funded project; and the Turks and Caicos Islands Government is hoping to progress a project through the Darwin Plus scheme to provide evidence of the dynamic resilience of Caicos Island wetlands and how they support biodiversity, coastal protection, and natural capital.

Section 9.7c sets out examples of research to inform wetland policies and plans based on the valuation of ecosystem services.

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	B A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
11.2 Additional information:	

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

11.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):

Socio-economic values of wetlands are increasingly seen as an important component of the management planning of UK Ramsar Sites and other wetland areas. This includes the provision of potable water, flood, flow and water quality regulation, carbon regulation, food and other products (notably fish, beef, reeds and osiers). Consideration of site-specific values allows landowners and relevant authorities to tailor management arrangements to suit local circumstances. An example is the coastal realignment scheme at Steart Marshes, south-west England, a joint project between the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and Environment Agency, which provides natural coastal flood management that protects local homes, businesses and surrounding infrastructure and flood defences from storm surges and erosion, helps address climate change, provides farmland, a nature reserve, a nursery for commercial fish stocks, footpaths and bridleways, and opportunities for young people to learn conservation and heritage skills https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-coastal-flood-management-scheme-completed.

On Alderney, socio-economic considerations, especially around tourism and quality of life have been integrated into the current 5-Year Management Strategy and Annual Action Plans for the Ramsar Site www.alderneywildlife.org/reserves/ramsar, www.ci-ramsar.org. The Sark Island Government Agricultural and Development Control Committees take note of wise use of the Ramsar Site.

Socio-economic variables were considered within the drafting of management plans for the Turks and Caicos Island Ramsar Site (see Cheesman, O., and Pienkowski, M. 2003. Developing biodiversity management capacity around the Ramsar Site in the Turks and Caicos Islands; and Kuyer, J. 2018. Turks and Caicos Islands Natural Capital Accounting - Initial Review), and these will be taken into account when the management plan is completed in 2021 for the Sombrero Island Nature Ramsar Site on Anguilla.

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19)? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

11.4 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):

Cultural values of wetlands are increasingly seen as an important component of the management planning of UK Ramsar Sites and other wetland areas. This includes recreational use, tourism, education, scientific research, sense of place and historical values. Consideration of site-specific cultural values allows landowners and relevant authorities to tailor management arrangements to suit local circumstances. Examples include the coastal realignment scheme at Steart Marshes, south-west England (see 11.3) and Cors Fochno and Dyfi Ramsar Site (see 16.3).

On Alderney, consideration of species with cultural significance and areas of the site, which have longstanding community cultural value are taken into consideration within the current five-year management strategy, though no active management to develop the cultural value of the site has been considered www.alderneywildlife.org/reserves/ramsar.

On Sark, awareness of critical land management issues is promoted by the Société Sercquaise (history), the Island Visitor Centre (tourism) and the Island Chief Pleas (Government). Cultural values have been assessed and partially included in the existing (2003) management plan for the Turks and Caicos Island Ramsar Site, and these will be considered for the Sombrero Island Ramsar Site on Anguilla when the management plan is completed in 2021.

In addition, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) received funding from the Ramsar Secretariat in support of the Ramsar Culture Network (RCN). WWT are also working with UK consultant David Pritchard to collate examples of existing cultural activities and create an ongoing platform for the RCN (including web pages on the Wetland Link International website). WWT also provide a hosting role for the RCN, who previously delivered a related side event at Ramsar COP13.

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 A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

12.1 Additional information:

The Natural England Improvement Programme for England Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improvement-programme-for-englands-natura-2000-sites-ipens developed a strategic approach to achieving favourable condition in English SACs and SPAs (including most Ramsar Sites). This resulted in the production of individual site improvement plans that identified potential mechanisms to bring sites and species into favourable condition and strategic theme plans addressing issues across multiple sites. Over 30% of the improvement plans identified water pollution as an issue and over 25% identified hydrological functioning; as a result, themed plans were therefore produced for these key pressures and also reflected in Natural England's freshwater and wetland habitats narrative http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6524433387749376. The atmospheric nitrogen theme plan set out an approach for tackling atmospheric pollution impacts on wetlands and other sensitive habitats.

Similarly, the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales project https://www.naturalresources.wales/about-us/our-projects/nature-projects/life-n2k-wales/life-n2k-reports/ developed a strategic forward plan that set out the requirements for the management and restoration of SACs and SPAs in Wales, including Prioritised Improvement Plans, Thematic Action Plans, Cross-cutting Action Plans, and a Prioritised Action Framework.

The Natural Resources Wales Peatland Survey Programme has identified some restoration priorities for lowland sites and in November 2020 a National Peatlands Action Programme was published that lays out a five year plan for restoring Welsh peatlands https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/about-us/strategies-and-plans/national-peatland-action-programme/.

The Wetland Vision partnership set out a 50-year vision for freshwater wetlands England and Wales, showing where new wetlands could be created and current wetlands restored http://www.wetlandvision.org.uk/. At a regional level, the Severn Vision Project http://severnvision.org/ developed a long-term vision for the future of this transboundary landscape and Ramsar Site, which included mapping work on both threats to existing wetlands and wetland restoration opportunities.

On the Isle of Man, a flooding and coastal protection risk assessment has prioritised sites with such issues (see the National Strategy on Sea Defences, Flooding and Coastal Erosion, 2016 https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/environment-safety-and-health-directorate/national-strategy-on-sea-defences-flooding-and-coastal-erosion/). Sites for peatland restoration are being identified under the Climate Change Action Plan, and a plan for wetland restoration in the Ballaugh Curraghs Ramsar Site is under development.

Priority sites in Anguilla have been identified through a Darwin Plus-funded project https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS091/, led by the Government of Anguilla Department of Disaster Management in partnership with the Anguilla National Trust and Department of Natural Resources. Priority sites have been identified based on the results of vulnerability and opportunity modelling and mapping. On the British Virgin Islands, a Caribbean Development Bank project on Smart Communities identified mangroves as a key component to protect shorelines and land based assets with community engagement and participation in replanting and restoration efforts; key sites have been identified and prioritised. On Montserrat, the Adopt a Home for Wildlife project (run by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and Montserrat National Trust) has successfully piloted work to reinstate rare coastal wetlands infilled by volcanic outwash; and further work has been advanced by RSPB and partners through funding assistance from Darwin Plus to rehabilitate wetlands in the Belham Valley. On the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Wheeland Ponds on Providenciales have been targeted for clean-up and restoration https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS098/.

12.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been effectively implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i	A A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

12.2 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if available the extent of wetlands restored):

The Moors for the Future http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/ is a major partnership that has transformed over 34 square km of degraded peat across the Peak District and South Pennine moors in northern England. Recently it has worked with a community group to carry out sphagnum moss planting and vegetation monitoring; built thousands

of small dams and spread thousands of bags of heather brash onto bare peat to encourage it to revegetate; and held webinars on the heritage of peatlands and *Molinia* management.

The Great Fen Project https://www.greatfen.org.uk/ is one of the largest wetland restoration projects of its type in Europe, which has made significant progress to restore a wild fen landscape across 3,600 ha in eastern England.

Over 400 hectares of wetland habitat has been created by the Environment Agency in partnership with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust on the Steart Peninsula in Somerset https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/steart-marshes/. The scheme was delivered as part of efforts to compensate for the loss of habitat elsewhere in the Severn Estuary.

The Flows to the Future project https://www.theflowcountry.org.uk/flows-to-the-future/ has restored large areas of blanket bog damaged by forestry planting in the heart of the Flow Country, Scotland. Restoration work carried out under the Scotland Peatland ACTION project has set over 25,000 ha of degraded peatland on the road to recovery since 2012 https://www.nature.scot/climate-change/nature-based-solutions/peatland-action-project.

Natural Resources Wales was awarded a significant LIFE project in 2017 to restore active and degraded raised bog across seven SACs and two Ramsar Sites in Wales, and recently received LIFE funding to carry out restoration work on the River Dee and Llyn Tegid SAC.

Wetland restoration through a joint RSPB, Northern Ireland Water and NIEA project has restored 1,000 ha of upland habitats in the Garron Plateau Ramsar Site https://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/Blanket_Bog_sm_tcm9-335643.pdf and wet grassland within Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar Site http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/Images/Futurescapes%20-%20Lough%20Beg%20Wetlands_tcm9-253586.pdf.

A Darwin Plus project on the restoration of Akrotiri Marsh, Cyprus Sovereign Base Area http://www.akrotirimarsh.org/en/home, restored biodiversity through practical actions, raised awareness on the importance of the site, and provided sustainable economic opportunities to the people of Akrotiri Community https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS056/.

On Anguilla, wetland restoration programmes are currently on-going on the mainland (East End Pond Conservation, Forest Bay Pond, Long Salt Pond, Cove Pond, and Meads Bay Pond), as well as on the offshore cays (Dog Island and the Prickly Pear cays, with Sombrero Island and Little Scrub Island restoration work planned for 2021).

NGO-land owners in Bermuda have carried out wetland restorations. The Bermuda Audubon Society carried out a significant invasive plant removal and restoration at Somerset Long Bay Pond Ramsar Site in 2019/20. The Buy Back Bermuda campaign of the Bermuda National Trust and the Bermuda Audubon Society crowdfunded the purchase of the former site of Eve's Pond in 2008, which had been filled with dredged material and was re-excavated in 2020 and stocked with endemic fish and native plants.

On the British Virgin Islands, several communities on Tortola and Virgin Gorda have been recipients of mangrove restoration projects.

12.3 Have the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands and on Peatlands, climate change and wise use (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.11) been implemented including?	A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
a) Knowledge of global resources	C
b) Education and public awareness on peatlands	C
c) Policy and legislative instruments	C
d) Wise use of peatlands	C
e) Research networks, regional centres of expertise, and institutional capacity	C
f) International cooperation	A
g) Implementation and support	C

12.3 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, the progress in implementation:

The IUCN UK Peatland Programme https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/ promotes peatland restoration in the UK and advocates the multiple benefits of peatlands through partnerships, strong science, sound policy and effective practice. It also has strong links with international partners through the Global Peatlands Initiative (UNEP) and Wetlands International. The programme is overseen by partner bodies, including Government bodies, NGOs and Universities. It is currently hosted by the Scottish Wildlife Trust and primarily funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. In 2018, the programme launched a UK Peatland Strategy after more than a decade of work. This aims to drive and co-ordinate action across the UK, supported by country level plans to establish a more detailed course for peatland conservation and management. It has produced a practical Management Handbook on Conserving Bogs, a Demonstrating Success Booklet series showcasing successful restoration projects across the UK and Internationally, a Project Map highlighting peatland restoration, management, research, communications and citizen science projects, and a Peatland Training Programme focusing on key issues relevant to the UK.

In recent years, progress has been made on an England Peat Map and England Peat Strategy. In 2018, Defra allocated £10 million in grant-aid for four restoration projects covering 6,580 hectares of upland and lowland peatland habitat as part of The 25 Year Environment Plan that sets out the Government's commitment to improving peatlands https://www.gov.uk/government/news/grants-for-peatlands-restoration. In Wales, progress on education and implementation has being made through the Natural Resources Wales New LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs project https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/our-projects/nature-projects/new-life-for-welsh-raised-bogs/; this will be greatly increased with the recent launch of the National Peatlands Action Programme, which includes significant stakeholder engagement and a commitment by Welsh Government to ensure all semi-natural peatlands in Wales are subject to sustainable management; and there is an intention to appoint a Wales Peatlands Communication officer. Swansea University have established a Peatland Evidence fellowship to increase capacity in this area, and international links exist

through initiatives such as Eurosite and LIFE, although formal project-based international working on peatlands is limited.

Important areas of UK peatlands are protected through legislation and policies that allows them to be designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, SACs, SPAs and Ramsar Sites. Proposed plans and projects potentially impacting such sites require Environmental and Ecological Impact Assessment. Public bodies are also required to take account of biodiversity conservation/sustainable management of natural resources in their decision-making, including in the planning processes where key peatland habitats are recognised as priorities for conservation. Whilst there is greater awareness of the importance of the wise use concept, harmful and unsustainable use of peatlands for agricultural and silvicultural management remains an issue; the protection of peatland catchments could be improved; sites remain vulnerable to piecemeal damage and loss; and steps are required to improve the condition of peatlands SSSIs and manage soil loss and GHG emissions from lowland peat soils under intensive agricultural use.

On the Isle of Man, peat depths in the uplands are being assessed by Manx Wildlife Trust as part of the Manx Mires Partnership project https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/projects/isle-man.

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

13.1 Additional information:

In the UK, the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) come from the EU SEA Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. SEA is applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may have impacts on the environmental, including wetlands, where these fall within the prescribed thresholds of the transposing UK Regulations. SEA alone is required in limited situations, usually only where either neighbourhood plans or supplementary planning documents could have significant environmental effects. In most circumstances, all that is required is a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to ensure that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues. Relevant Agencies must take account of SEA obligations when publishing Significant Water Management Issues in River Basin Management Planning. SEA is also applied to Water Resources Management Planning. Both SEA and SA are tools used at the plan-making stage to assess the likely effects of the plan when judged against reasonable alternatives.

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Cases

13.2 Additional information:

In the UK, the requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) comes from the EU EIA Directive. EIA is applied to individual projects which are likely to have significant environmental effects, including upon wetlands and Ramsar Sites, where these fall within the prescribed thresholds of the transposing UK Regulations. The aim is to ensure that local planning authorities, when deciding whether to grant planning permission which is likely to have significant environmental effects, takes this into account. The process also ensures the public is given early and effective opportunities to participate in the decision-making procedures https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment#habitats-regs. In addition, if a proposed project is considered likely to have a significant effect on a European site (SAC or SPA), then an Appropriate Assessment (or Habitats Regulations Assessment) of the effects on the integrity of the site conservation objectives must be carried out https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment.

Specific guidelines have been produced for Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) by the UK Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-impact-assessment-ecia/. These facilitate good practice in identifying, quantifying and evaluating potential effects of development-related or other proposed actions on habitats, species and ecosystems, and to allow competent authorities to understand ecological issues when determining applications for consent. EcIA afford particular attention to a range of wetland habitats and species that are included on statutory lists of habitats of principal importance/ highest priority for biodiversity conservation.

Mandatory EIA is required for developments that might significantly impact the Alderney West Coast and Burhou Islands Ramsar Site. It also is a planning requirement for all projects in or near sensitive natural habitats on Jersey, including wetlands. On the Isle of Man, EIA requirements are set within the Strategic Plan (terrestrial developments) and the Marine Infrastructure Management Act 2016.

Some of the UK Overseas Territories have developed EIA policies, albeit that they generally are not mandatory. The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum has provided and sourced specialist guidance on the use of EIAs and integration of environmental aspects into physical planning for some Overseas Territories. EIAs are sometimes requested or required on Anguilla depending on the type of development. The Bermuda planning statement contains designated Water Resources Conservation Areas and Cave Protection Areas to protect groundwater and planning applications for all developments inside these zones are vetted by the Government Hydrogeologist. EIAs are required for coastal development on the British Virgin Islands under the Physical Planning Act, which take account of impacts to wetlands. In the Cayman Islands, EIA may be required at the discretion of the National Conservation Council, under provisions in the National Conservation Law. On the Turks and Caicos Islands, Environmental Assessments are required for certain development categories, based on the development type rather than the habitats which they impact; the Director of Planning may also require Environmental Assessment for any project which they deem

to be detrimental to critical habitats. In the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas, there are possible future development challenges relating to tourism in Akrotiri, which are being considered through Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) procedures https://www.sbaadministration.org/index.php/non-military-development.

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 A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
15.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):	

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 A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
15.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s): None	

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	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned
a) At the national level b) Sub-national level c) Catchment/basin level d) Local/site level (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)	a) C b) A c) A d) A
16.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):	

The UK and its stakeholders recognize the need to embed conservation action and behaviour change within outreach and education programs as one method to meet global conservation targets. One example at the international level was the adoption of the IUCN World Conservation Congress resolution 078 on Promoting Conservation through Behaviour-Centred Solutions https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/078.

The UK Biodiversity Framework is designed to identify the activities needed to galvanise and complement the country biodiversity strategies, in pursuit of the Aichi targets http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189. This includes actions to share international information and facilitate knowledge exchange and the sharing and embedding of best practice, in particular to promote a natural capital/resources approach, and to mainstream biodiversity in other sectors to advocate sustainable consumption and production.

WWT works to deliver CEPA activities across its 10 UK sites, and is currently developing a new National Formal Learning Strategy. WWT is also running several local catchment based projects looking at natural flood management and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), and these also involve outreach to and active participation of local communities.

In Wales, communication, education, participation, awareness raising and capacity building are built into the principles and legislative framework for achieving the sustainable management of natural resources set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/environment-act/. The State of Natural Resources Report and the Area Statements required under this Act allow information on the state of the environment and its benefits, both intrinsic and wellbeing, to be set out as the starting point for cross sectoral and multi-organisation working on the issues identified.

CEPA is integrated into the Anguilla National Trust workplan and strategic plan. CEPA activities are conducted generally for Anguilla wetlands, but also more specifically to certain wetlands (including the East End Pond Conservation Area). With restoration activities scheduled to begin in May 2021 on the Sombrero Island Ramsar Site, significant CEPA activities will be undertaken to raise awareness about the site and its importance. They will also be formally included within the site management plan.

Further information on environmental education across the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies is contained in the review (produced by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum in 2016) in relation to the 2001 Environment Charters or their equivalents and the CBD Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Targets https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/env-charter/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
b) at other wetlands
	E= # centres;
	F=Less than #;
	G=More than #;
	X=Unknown;
	Y=Not Relevant

	a) E= 83 centres b) G = >83 centres

16.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):

About half of UK Ramsar Sites have some form of visitor/education centre and a significant number exist elsewhere. Those that specifically focus on wetlands include the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) which run wetland centres at Arundel, London, Slimbridge, Welney, Caerlaverock, Llanelli, Castle Espie, Washington and Martin Mere http://www.wwt.org.uk/learn/. These centres attract around one million visitors annually, including school visits for focused educational programmes, e.g. Inspiring Generations https://www.wwt.org.uk/our-work/projects/inspiring-generations/. WWT also hosts the

Wetland Link International project, an international support network for wetland centres, which counts another 10 UK wetland centres as members.

On the Isle of Man, interpretation centres manned by Manx Wildlife Trust volunteers are provided at two coastal sites that are not Ramsar Sites. Signage is provided at key sites elsewhere and further signage is planned. A Whale Trail (coastal biodiversity signage and telescopes) have been provided at key sites.

Alderney developed the Living Island which looked at the value of the Ramsar Site and other ecological resources to the tourism economy and since its conclusion the outcomes of this project have been integrated into the Island's Tourism Strategy through Visit Alderney https://www.visitalderney.com/our-island/nature/wild-protected-landscapes. The Island has the www.teachingthroughnature.com website resource, which uses webcams based within the Island's Ramsar Site to support online learning and serve to share the islands natural history with the world. In 2019, two telescopes were installed with information boards at two prime locations overlooking the Ramsar Site. The Alderney Wildlife Trust maintains an on-island visitors centre with interpretational materials from within the site which complement multiple additional information boards found at locations in the site itself. A commitment has been made through the Island Ramsar management strategy to ensure that every local child is able to access the Ramsar Site by boat for free prior to their 16th Birthday.

On Sark, a photographic guide to the Ramsar Site (by Sue Daley – experienced wildlife film-maker) and extensive Guides to the Island coastline (La Trobe) are available at the Island Visitor Centre.

The National Trust for the Cayman Island's visitor centre on Little Cayman serves as a visitor and educational centre for the Booby Pond and Rookery Ramsar Site.

On Bermuda, visitor centres cannot be built in any Ramsar Sites because they are zoned as Nature Reserves and this zoning prevents the construction of buildings and roads within the Sites.

The Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre http://akrotirienvironment.com moved to its permanent premises in 2014 and is part of the Cyprus Network of Environmental Education Centres. Two birdwatching hides, where visitors can enjoy the site's wildlife, have been constructed as part of the Darwin Plus project completed at Akrotiri Marsh.

16.3 Does the Contracting Party: a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management? {4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned a) A b) A

16.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):

In the UK, public consultation precedes all Ramsar Site designations, although these are selected on scientific criteria only. Stakeholder participation is central to the development of management plans for Ramsar Site and other nationally designated wetland sites so that socio-economic and cultural factors and stakeholder views can be considered.

The UK Special Protection Area and Ramsar Scientific Working Group (SPAR SWG) https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-spa-ramsar-avian-scientific-working-group/ is a consultative group established by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to assist government administrations and the statutory conservation agencies in taking forward the further development of the SPA and Ramsar networks within the UK, in particular the coherent management of these networks and monitoring of sites. The Group comprises representatives from government, statutory country nature conservation bodies and non-government organisations from the conservation, land use and marine sectors. As regards Ramsar, it principally focuses on avian aspects.

The review and update of the River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in England provides an example of the scope of stakeholder participation in decision-making in wetland planning. In 2015 this involved a number of steps taken nationally and locally to ensure appropriate public consultation and engagement, with significant efforts made to make information easily accessible, hold consultations with relevant organisations, and to actively involve many different stakeholders in in the planning process https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-basin-management-plans-record-of-consultation-and-engagement. The first consultation steps in reviewing and updating the RBMPs for 2021 resulted in 148 responses from a variety of groups and individuals, including the water industry, local authorities, catchment groups, local wildlife groups, and research organisations https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/river-basin-planning-working-together.

The Alderney Marine Users Forum has carried out extensive surveys on use of the marine environment, including the Alderney Ramsar Site, and interests and opinions from stakeholders have been used to create a marine users management plan www.alderneymarineforum.com. On Sark, land-owners and the Island Government are necessarily involved in management planning.

Stakeholder participation is generally promoted for all conservation planning and management activities on the Turks and Caicos Islands, as prescribed under the Environment Charter (2001), however there are no legal requirements or guidelines to ensure public consultation is consistent and effective.

16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	C
	A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

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

Although the formal National Ramsar Committee has not been functional in recent years, the UK SPA and Ramsar Scientific Working Group provides scientific and technical advice on matters relating to the UK Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar network (see 16.3); and the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group (4CBG), through which the environment departments of all four governments in the UK work together, discuss issues relating to the Ramsar Convention as necessary, in addition to its work on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

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 A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

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

See 16.4.

16.6 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and: a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned a) A b) C c) C

16.6 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please describe what mechanisms are in place):

Focal points (both wetland specific and broader conservation) are established throughout the UK Government administrations and its agencies and have established networks to ensure joined up implementation of the Ramsar wise use principles. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee provides a high-level coordination role for the statutory UK nature conservation agencies.

Communication mechanisms are in place for Ramsar Sites across the UK, Crown Dependencies and UK Overseas Territories, as needed.

Ramsar Site managers from the islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Sark and Alderney meet annually to discusses management issues, operational delivery, the development of conservation techniques, and to share ideas. The management of sites across the Channel Islands involves local government bodies throughout a number of departments and NGOs. All bodies work together to achieve common goals, such as the development of the Channel Island Ramsar code of conduct, which is publicized and available to all potential users and visitors, and a website to share resources www.ci-ramsar.com.

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 A=Yes; B=No

16.7 Additional information:

In the UK, events take place annually at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) centres involving visitors and local schools. WWT has also hosted high profile events, including parliamentary receptions, to draw the attention of key politicians, decision-makers and influencers to World Wetlands Day, the Ramsar Convention and the importance of wetlands.

As part of World Wetlands Day 2020, the Natural Resources Wales LIFE Welsh Raised Bogs Project celebrated the importance of Cors Fochno, one of the largest actively growing raised bogs in the lowlands of Britain and part of the Dyfi National Nature

Reserve near Ynyslas – this this included a guided walk followed by free family activities https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/about-us/news-and-events/news/citizen-science-life-wrb/; the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Castle Espie Wetland Centre encouraged people in Northern Ireland to take action in protecting valuable wetlands https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/castle-espie/news/2020/01/31/wetland-conservation-charity-encourages-support-of-local-wetland-centre-on-world-wetlands-day/18416; and Natural England (in collaboration with the Carstairs Countryside Trust) announced a major extension to the Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve, home to areas of traditionally-farmed hay meadows and a crucial sanctuary to large numbers of breeding and wintering birds https://www.gov.uk/government/news/natural-england-announces-major-extension-to-the-lower-derwent-valley-national-nature-reserve-to-mark-world-wetlands-day.

To coincide with World Wetlands Day in 2018, a £10 million flood scheme was officially completed by the Environment Agency, which included more than 5 hectares of urban wetland to help protect almost 2,000 homes and businesses from flooding at Salford in north-west England https://www.gov.uk/government/news/environment-agency-completes-10-million-flood-storage-basin-on-world-wetlands-day.

The Alderney Wildlife Trust run annual World Wetland Day events as part of the educational and promotional commitment in the Ramsar Site five-year management strategy – see sections 3.1 and 3.2 in http://www.alderneywildlife.org/sites/default/files/ramsar_management_strategy_2017-2021.pdf.

The Anguilla National Trust hosts annual World Wetlands Day activities (around 2 February). Activities usually involve conducting a Caribbean Wetland Census with members of the public at one or two mainland ponds.

The Bermuda Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources coordinated a bioblitz on 2nd Feb 2020 to celebrate the biodiversity theme of WWD. A student group led by the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences conducted a bioblitz at Lover's Lake Ramsar Site, while students led by the Bermuda National Trust did a bioblitz at Paget Marsh Ramsar Site. The species observations were compiled on the 'inaturalist' platform https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/world-wetlands-day-2020-bermuda-bioblitz.

On the British Virgin Islands, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration hosts a special event to commemorate the day and highlight the importance of mangroves and other wetlands to the economic well-being and status of biodiversity.

The Turks and Caicos Islands observes World Wetland Day annually. In 2021, the Wetlands and Water theme will highlight the importance of wetlands as a source of freshwater and encourage action to restore them and stop their loss https://gov.tc/pressoffice/2294-decr-observes-world-wetlands-day-2021.

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 A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned

16.8 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) undertakes extensive communications to raise awareness of wetlands – during 2018-2020 this included:

- 75+ blogs engaging WWT supporters with wetlands – over 40,000 views in 2020
- Multi-channel digital campaign in 2020 showcasing wetland ecosystem services
- Acting as a charity partner on 'BBC Watches' to champion wetlands to engage wildlife lovers (approx. 3 million viewers)
- The WWT 'Inspiring Generations' project supported by HSBC gave 75,000 schoolchildren from disadvantaged areas across the UK a free school visit to WWT
- Numerous outreach and education activities involving schools and local people, including at WWT Welney for Project Godwit, at the Salt Hill Stream restoration, Slough, and at Williton catchment management project in Somerset
- WWT worked with the Society of Wetlands Scientists and IUCN to conduct a global citizen science wetland watch programme
- Madagascar Pochard release – coverage included BBC1 News, BBC Radios 1, 2, 4, Five Live, more than 20 local BBC county radio stations, ITN News and radio channels, The Guardian, Mail Online, The Times, The Independent and 190 other titles, including in Australia, China and India; estimated reach to 24.5 million people https://www.wwt.org.uk/news/2018/12/28/history-made-as-worlds-rarest-bird-released-into-the-wild/16078.

The LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs project raised awareness of the importance of wetlands in Wales, and arranged numerous events at sites, e.g. The Bog Day and volunteer days. It also published peatland education resources and promoted wetlands through social media channels https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/our-projects/nature-projects/new-life-for-welsh-raised-bogs/.

Public awareness raising has been undertaken by the Alderney Wildlife Trust in collaboration with Visit Alderney, including citizen science research projects, educational engagement www.teachingthroughnature.org, and school activities. A program of walks, tours and boat trips is available to visitors and islanders that helps fund conservation. Local businesses are encouraged to visit the Alderney Ramsar Site. On the Isle of Man, an Environment Festival started in 2019, an annual Manx Wildlife Week includes guided walks and other events, and a Festival of the Sea involving the Manx Wildlife Trust highlighting marine interests. A new 'Curragh Nature Trail' has been established on a section of the Ballaugh Curragh Ramsar Site to raise awareness of the wetland, its wildlife and cultural significance through a variety of interpretative installations designed to engage families https://www.curraghswildlifepark.im/whats-here/trails-boardwalks/.

The Anguilla National Trust has run programmes to raise awareness about wetlands. Last year this focused on 120 public primary school children using the BirdsCaribbean's BirdSleuth and Wondrous Wetlands education platform. The Trust has also run school-based, after school and general public activities to raise awareness and understanding of Anguilla wetlands. The Bermuda National Trust has held an annual children's walk at Spittal Pond Ramsar Site guided by local experts. BirdLife Cyprus launched an online awareness raising campaign in 2020 to communicate the importance of the Akrotiri wetlands to the wider public. On the British Virgin Islands, awareness campaigns embedded in mangrove replanting exercises form an integral part of education and advocacy for protection. On the Turks and Caicos Islands, a wide variety of activities, including clean-ups, mangrove planting, and public awareness activities are taking place through a Darwin Plus Project https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS098/.

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]

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

17.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i	B A=Yes; B=No
17.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities):	

17.3 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i	A A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
17.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP12):	

The Darwin Initiative https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/about-us/ is a UK government grants scheme that helps to protect biodiversity and the natural environment by funding projects in developing countries and the Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible UK Overseas Territories. Over the years there have been various projects with wetland focus or providing benefits to wetland areas. Darwin-funded projects usually aim to help preserve biodiversity and the local community that lives alongside it. Most projects will include one or more of:

- building environmental knowledge;
- capacity building;
- research;
- implementing international biodiversity agreements.

Recent Darwin Initiative projects in developing countries relevant to wetlands (see http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/ecosystems-biomes/wetlands/ include:

- community livelihood and capacity support for securing Zimbabwe's wetland biodiversity;
- healthy wetlands for the cranes and people of Kabale Uganda;
- building future resilience for communities and wildlife in Ambondrobe;
- community-based integrated catchment management to conserve the Upper Chindwin River;
- conserving Myanmar's wetland biodiversity through sustainable rice standards;
- increasing the resilience of biodiversity and livelihoods in Colombo's wetlands.

The separate UK Government Darwin Plus Programme (also known as The Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund) provides funding for environmental projects and fellowships in UK Overseas Territories (it is no longer an Official Development Assistance (ODA) fund) https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/about-us/. Since 2012, Darwin Plus has committed £22m towards 122 individual projects in the UK Overseas

Territories to support conservation in marine, terrestrial and freshwater environments https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/funding-scheme/darwin-plus/.

Examples of the success of Darwin Plus projects include:

- on Anguilla, three Darwin Plus projects, which have involved the Anguilla National Trust, the Department of Disaster Management, the Environment Unit-Department of Natural Resources, Environment Systems Ltd, Fauna and Flora International, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, have supported restoration activities at East End Pond Conservation Area, Cove Pond, Meads Bay Pond, Forest Bay Pond, Long Salt Pond, Prickly Pear cays, Dog Island, Sombrero Island, and Little Scrub Island (to be conducted in 2021) https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS086/, https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS091/, https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS098/;
- a Darwin project researching invasive species at Akrotiri Marsh, Cyprus Sovereign Base Area, looked at the impacts of invasive alien species in a variety of habitats https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS056/ and continues as part of a new Darwin Plus project focusing on monitoring and understanding drivers of change in the Akrotiri wetlands https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS088/;
- the Turks and Caicos Islands has received funding from Darwin Plus https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS094/ and the European Union BEST 2.0 project https://econservation.jrc.ec.europa.eu/project/4000022 to increase understanding and help safeguard the East Caicos KBA's corals and coast, and have plans further to collate evidence of how the Caicos Islands' wetlands support biodiversity and provide coastal protection and natural capital under a proposed Darwin Project.

Support from UK Government to conservation in the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies is complemented by major contributions of personnel, expertise and other resources from non-governmental organisations and universities in the UK and from the Territories and Dependencies themselves.

17.4 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii	A A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant; Z=Not Applicable
17.4 Additional information: Darwin-funded projects (see 17/3) are monitored and evaluated to ensure that they will have a lasting impact and legacy on biodiversity in host countries and helping them meet their obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.	

17.5 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}	Z A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
17.5 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP12):	

17.6 Has any financial support been provided by your country to the implementation of the Strategic Plan?	B A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
17.6 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities):	

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	B A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
18.1 Additional information:	

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	C A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
18.2 Additional information:	

18.3 Has your country received assistance from one or more UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO) or the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.ii. The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, WWF and Wildfowl & Wetland Trust (WWT).	B A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
18.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the agency (es) or IOP (s) and the type of assistance received): The UK works closely with IOPs in implementing the wise use principles of the Convention and to collect information on bird distribution and abundance. The UK BirdLife International partner (the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust are members of the SPA and Ramsar Scientific Working Group which co-ordinates guidance on a range of Ramsar related technical issues.	

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}	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
18.4 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):	

Twinning arrangements exist for some Ramsar Sites in the UK, for example between the Wash and Waddensee (Netherlands) and between Strangford Lough and sites in Canada and Iceland.

Networks have also been established through Wetland Link International (WLI), a support network for wetland centres which provide education and visitor activities on site. The project is coordinated by from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) in the UK and has around 350 members across six continents http://www.wwt.org.uk/wli. Particularly relevant is the MBP (Migratory Birds for People) network, which links wetland centres along the East Atlantic Flyway, including West Africa and western Europe. Centres regularly communicate and take part in joint projects and an annual meeting, including hosting the 10th anniversary of MBP. WWT and partners from the MBP project celebrated World Migratory Bird Day, involving schoolchildren along the East Atlantic Flyway to join a waterbird themed webinar and produce a giant flyway map and associated guidebook of activities. MBP also runs an 'optics for Africa' scheme, collecting used optics from WWT members and visitors to send on to colleagues in West Africa.

Knowledge and skill sharing between UK Overseas Territories is facilitated by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (whose member organisations are mainly UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies bodies) and its three regional working groups ('Wider Caribbean', 'Southern Oceans' and 'Europe Territories'), the Caribbean Conservation Network (comprised of representatives from the Caribbean UKOT National Trusts and affiliated environmental NGOs) and BirdsCaribbean (with representatives from across the Caribbean Region).

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

18.5 Additional information:

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee provides a range of information about Ramsar Sites in the UK and its Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ramsar-sites/. See also https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/land-and-landscapes/ramsar-sites and https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-areas/international-designations/ramsar-sites.

Information related to the UK Wetland Inventory is detailed under 8.1, 8.2 and 8.4.

The UK National Ecosystem Assessment provided a comprehensive review the state and value of the UK natural environment and ecosystem services http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/.

River Basin Management Plans have been created for the whole of the UK, which contain information on the condition and a number of pressures affecting freshwater and coastal water bodies (see 9.3).

The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) for Wales 2020 provides information on the diversity, extent, condition and connectivity and benefits of key ecosystems in Wales, including wetlands https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/state-of-natural-resources-report-sonarr-for-wales-2020/. The Natural Resources Wales geographic information map viewer provides geographic information

about the natural environment in Wales, including water and habitats https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/browse-map-of-data-about-the-natural-environment/.

The Scotland State of the Environment Report 2014 includes a chapter on water and a specific section on wetland habitats https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/state-of-the-environment/2014-state-of-the-environment-report/. The Scotland's environment website map brings together a range of updated environmental information and data that can be searched, viewed and analysed https://www.environment.gov.scot/.

Natural England produced a comprehensive state of the natural environment report in England in 2008, including information on the importance, extent, protection, condition and trends of open waters and wetland habitats http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/31043. The MAGIC website provides geographic information on the natural environment in England, including wetlands https://magic.defra.gov.uk/home.htm. The Environment Agency produced a report in 2018 on the state and trends of soil, air quality, water resources and water quality in England, which highlighted the frequency of serious pollution incidents, pollution levels and ecological status of rivers, deteriorating groundwater quality, and improvements in bathing water quality and pollutant loads to rivers from water industry discharges https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-of-the-environment.

Information from the periodic monitoring of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, including Ramsar Sites and other areas of wetland habitat, is available (see 8.2). This reveals that 56% of the total area of the 73 Ramsar Sites in England is in favourable condition and 44% is in unfavourable condition, with most of the latter judged to be recovering rather than stable or declining (79% v 21%) https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SearchEngland.aspx (accessed 1 February 2021).

Information on the conservation status of a variety of habitats recognised under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive was reported by the UK in 2019 https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/article-17-habitats-directive-report-2019-habitats/. This included 43 wetland habitats, including types of coastal dune, shingle, saltmarsh and lagoons, freshwater rivers and lakes, inland saltmeadow, wet and montane heath, poorly-drained grassland, bog, fen and flush vegetation, bog woodland and alluvial forests. The overall conservation status of three of these habitats was judged to be favourable; two were assessed as unfavourable-inadequate; and the remaining 38 were assessed as unfavourable-bad.

Information on the Channel Island Ramsar Sites is available via www.ci-ramsar.com, see also the States of Guernsey website and the Jersey Government website. Information for Bermuda is available from http://environment.bm/ramsar-sites.

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

18.6 Additional information:

Three International River Basin Districts are shared between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

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 A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; Y=Not Relevant

18.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):

Co-operation between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland occurs through a number of mechanisms. Cross-border River Basin Management Plans were produced in 2009 for three shared International River Basin Districts. These apply to groundwater, all surface water bodies, transitional and coastal waters out to one nautical mile, as well as European protected areas that are directly associated with ground or surface water and address cross-border considerations. Northern Ireland published updated plans in 2015 and the Republic of Ireland in 2018. The draft 3rd cycle of the River Basin Management Plan in Northern Ireland is due for publication during 2021, including an updated programme of measures. In addition to other government agencies, a cross-border body (The Loughs Agency) addresses protection, management and liaison of cross-border catchments centred on shared coastal areas (Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough - both Ramsar Sites) and their associated catchments.

18.8 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii	A A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable

18.8 Additional information:

The UK is Party/Signatory to and an active participant in a number of Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding under the Convention on Migratory Species, which have implications for the conservation of wetland-dependent species. These include:

- Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
- Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas
- MoU on the Aquatic Warbler
- MoU on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles in the Indian Ocean and South East Asia
- MoU on Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia
- Sharks MoU

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust hosts the Migratory Birds for People network, a group of wetland centres at internationally important wetlands along the East Atlantic Flyway https://wli.wwt.org.uk/initiatives/migratory-birds-for-people/.

The Turks and Caicos Islands currently participates in an annual winter shorebird census, which is a collaboration between the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources, Turks and Caicos Reef Fund, Turks and Caicos National Trust, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, Canadian Wildlife Service and RSPB.

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
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
19.1 Additional information: Training needs in the UK are assessed on an organisation by organisation basis.	

19.2 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes?	A
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
19.2 Additional information: If you answer yes to the above please provide information on which mechanisms and materials: A number of education programmes across the UK and its Overseas Territories include wetland conservation and wise-use issues. The national curriculum science programme in England, for example, includes studying living things and their habitats https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-science-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-science-programmes-of-study. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) runs a formal learning programme for all ages from pre-school to higher education and adult groups, and welcomes around 45,000 learners per year (79% primary school, 6% secondary, 5% pre-school, 5% other, 2% FE/HE, 2% Special Educational Needs). WWT created children's learning resources in April 2020, including a 12 week digital learning programme and at-home activities with >67,000 views. Wetland ecology and wise use issues forms part of a number of degree courses across the UK, e.g. https://www.ntu.ac.uk/course/animal-rural-and-environmental-sciences/ug/bsc-hons-ecology-and-conservation. Postgraduate degree programmes in wetland conservation are also available, e.g. https://www.bangor.ac.uk/natural-sciences/postgraduate-modules/C1BC. Northern Ireland Water provides a 'Water Bus' education service. This is a double decker bus which has been transformed into a popular mobile education unit. It concentrates on many aspects of water and is aimed at Primary School pupils, who learn about a range issues such as the water cycle and water conservation https://www.niwater.com/water-bus/. Programmes on wetland conservation are regularly delivered by the Akrotiri Education Centre to school children across Cyprus (about 10,000 children visit every year). The Centre is part of the Cyprus Network of Environmental Education Centres and school visits are part of the national curriculum.	

On the Turks and Caicos Islands, 'Wonderful Water' is a curriculum-integrated course with strong components on local wetlands. It was developed at the request of the TCI Director of Education by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum working with local schools, and is used in all state, and some private, schools, as well as in some higher courses. A new version is now openly available https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/environmental-education/wonderful-water/.

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 b) at other wetlands	a) X b) X E=# opportunities; F=Less than #; G= More than #; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

19.3 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):

It is not possible to give a precise figure as such opportunities are assessed on an organisation-by-organisation basis with no central co-ordination.

The Caicos Pine Recovery Project has engaged in controlled burn training exercises within the Turks and Caicos Islands Ramsar Site. The Darwin Plus 098 project includes training opportunities for the Turks and Caicos Islands management authority DECR.

19.4 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii	D A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable

19.4 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

The information contained in this report is based in part on a review and updating of the previous UK Ramsar National Report.