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

**National Reports to be submitted to the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2018**

## **Ramsar COP13 National Report Format (NRF)**

### **Background information**

1. The COP13 National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee 52 for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (United Arab Emirates, 2018).
2. The Standing Committee through Decision SC52-07 has also agreed that an online National Reporting format could be made available to Parties by keeping the off-line system and requested the Secretariat to present an evaluation for the next COP regarding the use of the on-line system.
3. The National Report Format is being issued by the Secretariat in 2016 to facilitate Contracting Parties' implementation planning and preparations for completing the Report. The deadline for submission of national targets is by 30 November 2016 and the deadline for submission of completed National Reports is January 21<sup>st</sup> **2018**.
4. Following Standing Committee discussions, this COP13 NRF closely follows that of the NRF used for COP12, to permit continuity of reporting and analysis of implementation progress by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP12 NRF). It is also structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2016-2024 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP12 as Resolution XII.2.
5. This COP13 NRF includes 92 indicator questions. In addition, Section 4 is provided as an optional Annex in order to facilitate the task of preparing the Party's National Targets and Actions for the implementation of each of the targets of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 according to Resolution XII.2.
6. As was the case for previous NRF, the COP13 Format includes an optional section (Section 5) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information, on indicators relevant to each individual Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site) within its territory.
7. Note that, for the purposes of this national reporting to the Ramsar Convention, the scope of the term "wetland" is that of the Convention text, i.e. all inland wetlands (including lakes and rivers), all nearshore coastal wetlands (including tidal marshes, mangroves and coral reefs) and human-made wetlands (e.g. rice paddy and reservoirs), even if a national definition of "wetland" may differ from that adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

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

8. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention and are made publicly available on the Convention's website.
9. There are seven main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
  - i) provide data and information on how, and to what extent, the Convention is being implemented
  - ii) provide tools for countries for their national planning
  - iii) capture lessons and experience to help Parties plan future action;

- iv) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
  - v) provide a means for Parties to account for their commitments under the Convention;
  - vi) 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) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
10. 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".
11. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, the Ramsar Secretariat holds in a database all the information it has received and verified. The COP13 reports will be in an online National Reporting system.
12. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
- i) providing an opportunity to compile and analyze information that contracting parties can use to inform their national planning and programming.
  - ii) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global, national and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the COP as a series of Information Papers, including:
    - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level;
    - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance); and
    - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region;
  - iii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP.
  - iv) providing the source data for time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2010); and
  - v) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP used the COP10 NRF indicators extensively in 2009 to prepare contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems for consideration by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3). Similar use of COP12 NRF indicators is anticipated for the CBD's next such in-depth review.

## The structure of the COP13 National Report Format

13. The COP13 National Report Format (NRF) is in five sections:

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

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

**Section 3** provides the 92 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation Goals and Targets in the Strategic Plan 2016-2024, and with an optional 'free-text' section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity.

**Section 4** is an optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that has developed national targets to provide information on the targets and actions for the implementation of each of the targets of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

In line with Resolution XII.2, which encourages Contracting Parties "to develop and submit to the Secretariat on or before December 2016, and according to their national priorities, capabilities and resources, their own quantifiable and time-bound national and regional targets in line with the targets set in the Strategic Plan", all Parties are encouraged to consider using this comprehensive national planning tool as soon as possible, in order to identify the areas of highest priority for action and the relevant national targets and actions for each target.

The planning of national targets offers, for each of them, the possibility of indicating the *national priority* for that area of activity as well as the *level of resourcing available, or that could be made available during the triennium, for its implementation*. In addition, there are specific boxes to indicate the *National Targets* for implementation by 2018 and the *planned national activities* that are designed to deliver these targets.

Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 shows the synergies between CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Ramsar Targets. Therefore, the NRF provide an opportunity that Contracting Parties indicate as appropriate how the actions they undertake for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets according to paragraph 51 of Resolution XII.3.

**Section 5** is an optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that so wishes to provide additional information regarding any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

## General guidance for completing and submitting the COP13 National Report Format

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

14. All Sections of the COP13 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
15. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is January 21<sup>st</sup> **2018**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP13.
16. The deadline for submission of national targets is by 30 November 2016
17. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.  
  
Fields with a pale green background  are free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, as it helps us understand Parties' progress and activity more fully, to prepare the best possible global and regional implementation reports to COP.
18. To help Contracting Parties refer to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP12, for each appropriate indicator a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP12 NRF or previous NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
19. For follow up and where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties implementation in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
20. Only Strategic Plan 2016-2024 Targets for which there are implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those targets of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted (e.g. targets 6 and 14).
21. The Format is created as a form in Microsoft Word to collect the data. You will be able to enter replies and information in the yellow or green boxes.  
  
For each of the 'indicator questions' in Section 3, a legend of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: 'A - Yes', 'B - No', 'C - Partially', 'D - In progress'. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies. Please indicate the relevant letter (A, B etc.) in the yellow field.  
  
For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarification, do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question. Please be as concise as possible (**maximum of 500 words** in each free-text box).
22. In Section 4 (Optional) for each target the planning of national targets section looks as follows (in the example of Target 8 on inventory):

## Planning of National Targets

<b>Priority of the target:</b>		A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
<b>Resourcing:</b>		A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
<b>National Targets (Text Answer):</b>		<i>[Example text]</i> To have comprehensive inventory of all wetlands by 2018
<b>Planned Activities (Text Answer):</b>		<i>[Example text]</i> To update the existing inventory so as to cover all the national territory, and to incorporate relevant information about wetlands, including digital information, when possible
<b>Outcomes achieved by 2018 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals</b>		<i>[Example text]</i> A comprehensive inventory of all wetlands
<b>Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2018</b>		

The input has to be made only in the yellow boxes. For **PRIORITY** and **RESOURCING**, the coded answers are given in the right part of the table (always in *italics*). The answer chosen should be typed inside the yellow box at the left side of the coded options. **TARGETS** and **PLANNED ACTIVITIES** are text boxes; here, Contracting Parties are invited to provide more detailed information in the respective box on their National Targets for achievement in implementation by 2018 and the planned national activities that are designed to deliver these targets.

***Please note that only ONE coded option –the one that better represents the situation in the Contracting Party– should be chosen. Blanks will be coded in COP13 National Reports Database as “No answer”.***

23. The NRF should ideally be completed by the principal compiler in consultation with relevant colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP12 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided. In the online system there will be also an option to allow consultation with others.
24. After each session, **remember to save the file**. A recommended filename structure is: COP13NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP13NRFSpain13January 2018.doc
25. After the NRF has been completed using the word version (offline), please enter the data in the NR online system at this link: <https://reports.ramsar.org> or send it by email ([nationalreports@ramsar.org](mailto:nationalreports@ramsar.org)) by January 21<sup>st</sup> 2018. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice at ([nationalreports@ramsar.org](mailto:nationalreports@ramsar.org)).

26. The completed NRF **must be accompanied by a letter that can be uploaded in the online system or send by email ([nationalreports@ramsar.org](mailto:nationalreports@ramsar.org)) in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP13 National Report.**

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

# National report to Ramsar COP13

## 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 <http://www.ramsar.org/search-contact>.

Name of Contracting Party: **NEW ZEALAND**

### Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority: Department of Conservation

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title: Mr. Lou Sanson

Mailing address: Department of Conservation, PO Box 10420, Wellington 6143, New Zealand

Telephone/Fax: +64 4 471 8412/+64 4 232 7970

Email: [lsanson@doc.govt.nz](mailto:lsanson@doc.govt.nz)

### Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title: Ms. Fiona Cumming

Mailing address: Department of Conservation, PO Box 10420, Wellington 6143, New Zealand

Telephone/Fax: +64 4 471 8412/+64 4 232 7970

Email: [fcumming@doc.govt.nz](mailto:fcumming@doc.govt.nz)

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

Name and title: Dr. Hugh A Robertson

Name of organisation: Department of Conservation

Mailing address: Private Bag 5, Nelson 7042, New Zealand

Telephone/Fax: +64 3 546 9335/+64 3 548 2805

Email: [harobertson@doc.govt.nz](mailto:harobertson@doc.govt.nz)

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

Name and title: Ms. Jan Simmons

Name of organisation: Department of Conservation

Mailing address: Private Bag 3072, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand

Telephone/Fax: +64 7 858 1000/+64 7 858 1001

Email: [jsimmons@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jsimmons@doc.govt.nz)

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

Name and title: (1) Ms. Karen Denyer (2) Mr. Kevin Hackwell

Name of organisation: National Wetland Trust Forest & Bird

Mailing address: PO Box 177 PO Box 631  
Pukekohe 2340 Wellington 6140  
New Zealand New Zealand

Telephone/Fax: +64 7 8230405 +64 4 801 2215

Email: [Karen.denyer@wetlandtrust.org.nz](mailto:Karen.denyer@wetlandtrust.org.nz) [k.hackwell@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:k.hackwell@forestandbird.org.nz)



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

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP12 reporting):

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

### 1) Community involvement in wise use of wetlands

New Zealand's implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention) is achieved by management activities undertaken by central government, regional councils, iwi (regional kinship group for New Zealand's indigenous Māori), local communities, non-governmental organisations, primary producers and other businesses.

Management of the six New Zealand sites designated under the Convention (Ramsar Sites) involves multiple stakeholders working formally or informally together. Such stakeholders include:

- **Central Government:** The **Department of Conservation** is the administrative authority and the New Zealand Government lead agency for the Convention. The Department is actively involved in the management of New Zealand's Ramsar Sites of International Importance (Ramsar Sites). The work of the Department is complemented by policy advice on environmental planning provided by the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment.
- Regional and district planning and administration of environmental legislation is undertaken by **regional and district councils**. Some local authorities also play a role in ecosystem monitoring within the Ramsar Sites and/or catchments.
- The **private sector** has several programmes for positive engagement with wetlands, including the Living Water programme (a Department of Conservation partnership with Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited (New Zealand's largest dairy co-operative)), and the Whio Forever programme (a Department of Conservation partnership with Genesis Energy (a diversified energy company)). The Whio Forever Programme aims to save New Zealand's unique whio/ blue duck (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*). The Living Water programme involves five sites including two Ramsar Sites (Awarua and the Firth of Thames).
- **Many local communities, non-governmental organisations, and other organisations** are active in wetland conservation in New Zealand, including developing new Ramsar Site nominations, supporting management of Ramsar Sites through formal or informal arrangements, ecological restoration of wetlands, protection of wetlands on private property through covenants and annual World Wetlands Day activities, and by advocating (through planning and legal processes) for wetland protection. Organisations active in wetland conservation in New Zealand include (but are not limited to) the National Wetland Trust of New Zealand, Fish and Game New Zealand, Forest & Bird, NZ Landcare Trust, Native Forest Restoration Trust, Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust, the Manawatu Estuary Trust, and many others.
- A new website ***Our Estuaries*** was launched in February 2016 to promote, engage and connect the New Zealand coastal wetland restoration community. Presently there are over 50 coastal wetland restoration groups and 30 catchment restoration initiatives represented on the *Our Estuaries* interactive maps. See [www.doc.govt.nz/estuaries](http://www.doc.govt.nz/estuaries)

## 2) Iwi leadership and engagement with management

Iwi leadership and engagement with freshwater management and wetland protection and restoration in New Zealand has been substantial. Examples are numerous, including:

- The **Waikato River Authority** is a New Zealand Government/iwi organisation established in 2010 to oversee a vision and strategy for the improved health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipa Rivers and their associated wetlands and tributaries. To date more than 200 projects have been funded by the Waikato River Authority, to the value of over \$31 million NZD including projects that aim to improve water quality within the Whangamarino Ramsar site catchment.
- The **Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group** works with community groups to coordinate restoration and management practices in the Kaipara Harbour and catchment area north of Auckland. The Group is led by Ngāti Whātua (an iwi local to the Auckland area) The group combines indigenous and western knowledge to restore the Mauri (lifeforce) of Kaipara and to promote socio-economic opportunities in the region.
- The **Manawatu River Leaders Accord** is a partnership between iwi, the private sector, and the New Zealand Government. The accord aims to improve water quality and ecological integrity of the Manawatu River. The partnership also provides support and funding to assist with community restoration projects.
- There is a co-governance agreement in place for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (Ngāi Tahu is the largest iwi in New Zealand's South Island), Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council and Christchurch City Council to share responsibility for Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and the wider catchment (<http://tewaihora.org/>). Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere is the largest lake in Waitaha/Canterbury, and is an important link in the chain of coastal lagoons and wetlands along the east coast of the South Island. A joint programme of work under this co-governance agreement is **Whakaora Te Waihora**, which has the vision to restore and rejuvenate the mauri and ecosystem health of Te Waihora in two generations.

### **3) New national freshwater policy tools and guidelines for the assessment of potential Ramsar sites in New Zealand**

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (Freshwater NPS) provides a policy framework for freshwater management under the Resource Management Act 1991. It was previously amended in 2014, and was amended again in 2017 to provide further direction to local authorities. The Freshwater NPS requires regional councils to allocate every freshwater body in New Zealand into freshwater management units. Regional plans must include objectives for each freshwater management unit regarding compulsory values (ecosystem health and human health for recreation). Regional plans must also give effect to the Freshwater NPS requirement to protect the significant values of wetlands and maintain the life-supporting capacity, ecosystem processes and indigenous species including their associated ecosystems, of fresh water. The Freshwater NPS must be fully implemented no later than 31 December 2025 (or 31 December 2030 in limited circumstances).

The Freshwater NPS requires that the significant values of 'outstanding waterbodies' are protected. Work is planned to provide more detailed direction or guidance on how the Freshwater NPS should be implemented in relation to wetlands.

Estuarine wetlands are already covered by the requirements in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 and regional coastal plans prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991. In 2017 the Department of Conservation prepared a report on the effect of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement on the Resource Management Act 1991 decision making for the Minister of Conservation. An estuaries state and values project is underway that covers science and information requirements to support councils in managing freshwater inputs to estuary environments. This work will form the basis for freshwater management guidance for coastal wetlands.

In May 2016 New Zealand published new guidelines for the assessment of potential Ramsar Sites in New Zealand. The guidelines will assist those nominating or assessing candidate Ramsar Sites, by providing information about each of the three phases of site assessment: 'Identify', which includes defining the boundaries of the site; 'Describe', which involves determining the relevant biogeographic region, classifying wetland types and collating information on ecological values; and 'Assess', whereby the level of compliance of the site with the Ramsar criteria is assessed to determine the importance of the site.

The application of the new site assessment guidelines will ensure a strategic approach to future site nominations, and will provide a transparent and systematic process for assessing the national and international importance of potential Ramsar Sites in New Zealand.

The guidelines can be found on the Department of Conservation website at [www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/international-agreements/ramsar-convention-on-wetlands/publications/national-guidelines-for-the-assessment-of-potential-ramsar-wetlands-in-new-zealand/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/international-agreements/ramsar-convention-on-wetlands/publications/national-guidelines-for-the-assessment-of-potential-ramsar-wetlands-in-new-zealand/).

#### **4) Increased investment in management and reporting**

New Zealand's Ramsar Sites have benefited from increased investment in management and reporting.

The Department of Conservation-led Arawai Kākāriki Wetland Restoration Programme (\$1.6 million NZD per annum) and the Department of Conservation/Fonterra Living Water programme (\$2 million NZD per annum) are directly contributing to management at the Awarua, Whangamarino and Firth of Thames Ramsar Sites, with significant investment in invasive species control, advocacy to mitigate water quality pressures, and improvements in habitat and hydrological management.

A revised Management Plan for the Manawatu River Mouth and Estuary Ramsar Site was also finalised in 2015, promoting a collaborative approach to site management. Ramsar Sites have also benefited from funding from the Ministry for the Environment Freshwater Improvement Fund (see section 5 below), regional councils, and local community groups.

Notwithstanding this investment and planning, ongoing management and restoration will be required at all sites to address both current and future threats to their ecological character.

The Department of Conservation, with site partners, has initiated a review of Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps for all of New Zealand's Ramsar Sites.

In April 2017 the Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand released *Our fresh water 2017*, a national report on the state and trend of freshwater in New Zealand. *Our fresh water 2017* represents a significant step forward in reporting on the environment, including wetland systems. See [www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/environmental-reporting/our-fresh-water-2017](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/environmental-reporting/our-fresh-water-2017).

## 5) Freshwater and estuarine restoration

Restoration of freshwater ecosystems from the mountains to the sea (including estuaries) has become a major focus for government, non-government organisations, and other organisations in New Zealand: both for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands. There are numerous relevant projects involving central government, regional authorities, iwi, and local communities in New Zealand.

More information on the many projects underway can be found on the Department of Conservation website ([www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)). Some notable examples include:

- The New Zealand Ministry for the Environment Freshwater Improvement Fund has committed \$44 million NZD in funding to 33 projects to improve freshwater management in New Zealand. The projects are part of the first round of funding from the \$100 million NZD Freshwater Improvement Fund, which aims to improve the management of New Zealand's lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater and wetlands over a 10-year period.
- The New Zealand Department of Conservation-led Arawai Kākāriki Wetland Restoration Programme aims to enhance the ecological restoration of three of New Zealand's most significant wetland/freshwater sites, including two Ramsar Sites (Whangamarino and Awarua wetlands).
- The Department of Conservation Living Water partnership with Fonterra is working to improve biodiversity and water quality across New Zealand. The partnership teams are currently focusing on five sensitive catchments (see additional information at question 3.2 below for details).
- The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme is a partnership between Rotorua Lakes Council, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Bay of Plenty Regional Council, with funding from the Ministry for the Environment. The Programme is working to protect and restore water quality in 12 Rotorua lakes.
- The Waimea Inlet Forum is an initiative where individual community groups meet every three months to discuss ongoing restoration efforts in the Waimea Inlet, in the north of New Zealand's South Island. The forum actively encourages initiatives that aim to protect and enhance existing native vegetation, manage riparian and coastal margins, control pest and weed species, and maintain the natural functioning of the environment in the Waimea inlet.
- Whakaora Te Waihora is an operational programme to restore and rejuvenate the mauri and ecosystem health of Te Waihora, which is co-governed by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council and Christchurch City Council (<http://tewaihora.org/>).
- The Underwood Wetland area in the Kaipara district (in the Northern part of the North Island) was officially opened by the Hon Nicky Wagner (then Associate Minister of Conservation) in February 2017. The area was purchased from farmers by the Nature Heritage Fund in 2015 with financial help from the Northland Fish & Game Council. The purchased area includes native forest coverage as well as wetland and river flats. The forest and wetland areas are now classified as a scenic reserve and the Northland Fish & Game Council will manage the river flat areas as a wildlife reserve. Fish & Game New Zealand intends over the long term to re-establish the river flat areas as wetland habitat.

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

### **1) Complexity and multiple jurisdictions**

Wetland planning and management is under the jurisdiction of several agencies. The Department of Conservation is the administrative authority for Ramsar Sites. The Ministry for the Environment provides policy advice on environmental planning. Regional and district councils are the regulatory agencies for water management under the Resource Management Act 1991. Cross-sectoral management, either formally or informally, is in place for Ramsar Sites to address this complexity.

### **2) Addressing current and projected climate conditions**

During the past triennium a number of significant rainfall and drought events have occurred in New Zealand. Some significant rainfall events have led to large-scale flooding and added pressure to wetlands and biodiversity in New Zealand wetlands. Long term strategies for climate change adaptation are needed for wetlands, including Ramsar Sites. Such strategies are necessary to understand and adapt to anticipated changes in sea level, temperatures, coastal acidification and precipitation.

### **3) Development and land use changes**

Urban and primary sector development have created legacy issues that need to be addressed by long term planning and management of wetlands, rivers, lakes and estuaries in New Zealand, including Ramsar Sites, as presented in *Our fresh water 2017*. The central government is providing major funding through the Freshwater Improvement Fund and by working on freshwater reforms (requiring limit setting) to achieve sustainable catchment management.

### **4) Invasive species**

Many of New Zealand's ecosystems, including wetlands, are impacted by invasive species. Ramsar sites and wetlands are negatively effected by introduced mammals, fish, plants, invertebrates and other exotic life forms, including microbes (see additional information provided in sections 4.1 - 4.4 below). Developing better tools and cost-effective approaches to reduce the impact of invasive species on the ecological character of wetlands is a priority.

### **5) Public awareness and appreciation of wetland ecosystem services**

Community understanding of the value of wetlands, and the ecosystem services they provide is increasing in New Zealand. However, achieving a high level of awareness and appreciation will require continued investment in education and communication, and greater uptake of publicly available information on wetlands in New Zealand.

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

**1) Continue to build partnerships for effective implementation of the Convention**

An ongoing focus for implementation of the Ramsar Convention in New Zealand is to continue to build partnerships that progress wetland protection and restoration. Efforts to do so will build on existing programmes with philanthropic groups, iwi, industry and community.

**2) New nominations**

Implementation of a strategic approach to nominations in New Zealand is a priority for the next triennium. In particular, seeking to apply new national guidelines to the assessment of potential Ramsar Sites in New Zealand.

**3) Empowering people to take action for wetlands**

Continuing efforts to increase awareness and understanding of the value of wetlands is a key priority. This will include ongoing work under programmes such as Arawai Kākāriki and Living Water, continuing to promote World Wetland Day activities and campaigns in New Zealand, and progressing Programme on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) action planning.

**4) Continue to invest in freshwater and estuarine restoration projects**

Central government, local government, philanthropic groups and industry are increasing investment in freshwater and estuarine restoration. Continuing to invest in such initiatives is a priority, including research to develop more effective methods for restoration.

**5) Ongoing freshwater reforms being implemented by councils and community**

A key priority is the implementation of freshwater reforms by councils and local communities in New Zealand. The focus is on making improvements to the setting of freshwater management objectives. The development of a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity is also to be developed through a stakeholder-led collaborative process.

D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

Continue the encouragement of regional and international partnerships to progress the global implementation of the Convention. Continue to support the Oceania region.

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

No.

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

The Department of Conservation is the administrative authority for the Ramsar Convention. The Department is part of the Natural Resources Sector, a group of government agencies who

are responsible for the management and stewardship of New Zealand's natural resources. The Sector is tasked with building a coherent and integrated approach to sector-wide natural resources issues while providing joined-up, high quality advice to New Zealand Government ministers.

- G. How can implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better 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)?

As noted in section F (above) the Natural Resources Sector coordinates the New Zealand Government agencies which are responsible for the management and stewardship of New Zealand's natural resources. A jointly agreed work programme focuses on delivering results both in the short and longer term. The goal of the Natural Resources Sector is to improve the productivity of New Zealand's resource-reliant industries while reducing their environmental impact. The Sector is also committed to working effectively with local government, iwi and hapū (smaller social or family groupings within an iwi), New Zealand business, and others to deliver on outcomes.

The Resource Management Act 1991 is New Zealand's main legislation for environmental management. The Act establishes an integrated framework and applies to land use, forestry, pollution, water and air. The Act requires consideration of economic, social and cultural well-being and establishes processes to consult with iwi and other stakeholders. The Freshwater NPS requires councils to manage water in an integrated and sustainable way to maintain the ecological health of freshwater ecosystems, while providing for economic growth within set water quantity and quality limits. Setting measurable limits to manage freshwater ecosystems is aligned with the wise-use principles of the Ramsar Convention.

The New Zealand Government has over the past triennium implemented a programme of freshwater reforms including: amending and reviewing implementation of the Freshwater NPS; setting a target to make 90 per cent of New Zealand's rivers and lakes swimmable by 2040; and establishing the Freshwater Improvement Fund.

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

No.

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



Ministry for the Environment

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ministry for Primary Industries

Ministry of Health

National Wetland Trust of New Zealand

Forest & Bird

Fish & Game

New Zealand Conservation Authority

Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand (ECO)

Waikato River Authority

Te Waihora Co-Governance Group

## Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

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

**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.*

COP13 REPORT		
1.1	Have wetland issues/benefits been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.3.2} {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i	
A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant		
a)	National Policy or strategy for wetland management	A
b)	Poverty eradication strategies	Y
c)	Water resource management and water efficiency plans	A
d)	Coastal and marine resource management plans	A
e)	Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan	A
f)	National forest programmes	A
g)	National policies or measures on agriculture	A
h)	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	A
i)	National policies on energy and mining	A
j)	National policies on tourism	A
k)	National policies on urban development	B
l)	National policies on infrastructure	B
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:	

**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.*

COP13 REPORT		
2.1	Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed to support the implementation of the Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1, VIII.2) ? 1.24.	C
		A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

### 2.1 Additional information:

As part of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (Freshwater NPS), regional authorities across New Zealand are implementing a scientifically based approach to set water quality objectives that consider compulsory aquatic values (ecosystem health and human health for recreation). The Freshwater NPS requires regional authorities to protect the significant values of wetlands.

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:

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 river or catchment development proposals that lead to changes to water quantity/flows have to consider potential adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems.

There are numerous examples of environmental flow assessments being applied to river systems in New Zealand and studies of water level requirements for lakes and palustrine wetlands.

2.3 Have Ramsar Sites improved the sustainability of water use in the context of ecosystem requirements?

A

A=Yes; B=No;  
C=Partially;  
D=Planned; O= No  
Change; X= Unknown

### 2.3 Additional information:

An improved hydrological management strategy for Waituna Lagoon, within the Awarua Wetland Ramsar Site (located in the Southern South Island) was adopted in 2017. This strategy allowed for a greater water level operating range for the coastal lagoon, and was developed through a collaborative process with the Department of Conservation, regional council and local community.

Ongoing assessment and collaborative discussions are also occurring at the Whangamarino Wetland Ramsar Site to seek improved management of water use.

2.4 Have the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12 ) been used/applied in decision-making processes. (Action 3.4.6.)

B

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

### 2.4 Additional information:

2.5 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

## 2.5 Additional information:

Examples of projects that demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management in New Zealand include:

- Waituna Lagoon: Ecological Guidelines for Waituna Lagoon were published in 2013, which outlined a recommended water level management regime for the lagoon (part of the Awarua Ramsar Site). These guidelines have been applied in statutory processes to improve the hydrological management regime for the coastal system.
- Kaituna River/Maketu Estuary: an initiative to re-align the Kaituna River/Maketu Estuary (located in the North-East of the North Island) is being implemented to facilitate an improved hydrological regime.

2.6 How many household/municipalities are linked to sewage system? SDG Target 6.3.1.	<p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E=# household/municipalities; F= Less than #; G=More than #; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
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## 2.6 Additional information:

See 2.7 below. In 2015, New Zealand presented information to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) confirming that 84.1 percent of the population in New Zealand was connected to sewerage treatment. The information presented was based on two data sources:

- Population-weighted estimates of the proportion of New Zealand's population connected to wastewater treatment plants carried out in 2015 (data to 2014/2015: Published by Water New Zealand); and
- National population estimates for 2015.

2.7 What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country? SDG Target 6.3.1.	<p style="text-align: center;">E= 84.1 percent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E=# percent; F= Less than # percent; G= More Than # percent; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
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## 2.7 Additional information:

See additional information provided at 2.6, above.

2.8 What is the percentage of users of septic tank/pit latrine? SDG Target 6.3.1.	<p style="text-align: center;">E=15.9 percent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E=# percent; F=Less Than # percent; G= More Than # percent; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
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2.8 Additional information:

See additional information provided at 2.6, above.

2.9 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology?  
SDG Target 6.3.1.

A

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

2.9 Additional information:

2.10 How do the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology perform?  
SDG Target 6.3.1.

A

A=Good; C=Functioning;  
B=Not Functioning;  
Q=Obsolete;  
X= Unknown  
Y= Not Relevant

2.10 Additional information:

2.11 How many centralised wastewater treatment plants exist at national level? SDG Target 6.3.1.

X

E= # plants;  
F= Less than #;  
G=More than #;  
X= Unknown;  
Y= Not Relevant

2.11 Additional information:

2.12 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants?  
SDG Target 6.3.1.

A

A=Good; C=Functioning;  
B=Not Functioning;  
Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant

2.12 Additional information:

Wastewater treatment plants in New Zealand must comply with discharge consent standards.

2.13 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is?  
SDG Target 6.3.1.

X

A=Good; C=Functioning;  
B=Not Functioning;  
Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant

2.13 Additional information:

<p>2.14 Is there a wastewater reuse system? SDG Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
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2.14 Additional information:

There are a number of examples of waste water reuse in New Zealand.

For example, the Rotorua Lakes Council collects and treats wastewater from the Rotorua urban area and a number of lakeside and rural communities. Treatment of this wastewater is carried out at the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant with the resulting effluent pumped to the nearby Whakarewarewa forest where it is irrigated onto approximately 300 ha of plantation forest. This is done in accordance with a resource consent for the discharge of sewage effluent to land. See [www.rotorualakes.co.nz](http://www.rotorualakes.co.nz).

<p>2.15 What is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system? SDG Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>R=Agriculture; S=Landscape; T=Industrial; U=Drinking; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
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2.15 Additional information: Please indicate if the wastewater reuse system is for free or taxed or add any additional information.

See information at 2.14 above.

**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}

COP13 REPORT	
<p>3.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {1.10.1} KRA 1.10.i</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>

### 3.1 Additional information:

The principle of wise use is embedded within national and regional approaches to the management and restoration of wetlands, including projects involving the private sector.

Although further effort is required to disseminate Ramsar Convention handbooks and associated information, the broad concepts within this material are consistent with New Zealand's approaches to private-public sector projects concerning wetlands. For example, the Department of Conservation partnerships with Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited (New Zealand's largest dairy co-operative) and Meridian Energy.

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

a) Ramsar Sites

b) Wetlands in general

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

a) A

b) A

### 3.2 Additional information:

a) Ramsar sites

Living Water is a partnership between the Department of Conservation and Fonterra to improve biodiversity and water quality across New Zealand. The partnership is currently working to improve five sensitive catchments, including two Ramsar Sites: (i) Tikapa Moana/the Firth of Thames:Pūkorokoro/Miranda Catchment: ; and (ii) Awarua–Waituna: Waituna Catchment.

b) Wetlands in general

Many private landowners and some plantation forest companies have voluntarily protected wetlands on their land in perpetuity via open space covenants with the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, or similar arrangements with the Department of Conservation or local authorities.

The private sector (including farmers) has several programmes for positive engagement with wetlands. These include:

- The ongoing implementation of the *Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord* (2013). The Accord is a voluntary project led by the dairy industry in New Zealand to improve farming practices and water quality. In May 2017 Dairy New Zealand released a report detailing implementation of the Accord, entitled *Three Years On....* This report showed a range of targets have been achieved, including excluding dairy cows from accessing 26,197 kilometres of measured waterways in New Zealand.
- As noted above, Living Water is a partnership between Fonterra and the Department of Conservation to improve water quality across New Zealand. In addition to the two Ramsar Sites noted above, the partnership is currently working to improve three other catchments:
  - Kaipara Harbour: Wairua Catchment;
  - Waikato Peat Lakes: Areare, Ruatuna, Rotomānuka; and
  - Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere: Ararira/LII Catchment.

More information can be found at [www.livingwater.net.nz](http://www.livingwater.net.nz).

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

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



### 3.3 Additional information:

Many of New Zealand's local authorities provide funding, free advice, and/or published guidelines for the protection, management and restoration of wetlands.

The New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board is a charitable body set up to receive and distribute proceeds from the Game Bird Habitat Stamp Programme. The Programme (administered by Fish and Game New Zealand on behalf of the Trust Board) was initiated in 1993 to collect funds for habitat protection. Every year a fundraising stamp is released that depicts a different game bird (see section 16.7 below for more information on the annual stamp launch). Game bird hunters in New Zealand also contribute to the fund when they buy their annual hunting licence because \$2 goes directly to the programme.

Over the life of the Trust Board, grants from the Game Bird Habitat Stamp Programme have exceeded \$1.6 million NZD and have supported projects for wetland sites including Whangamarino, Para Wetland, Whakaki Lagoon, Waerebga-o-kuri, Penewaka Lagoon, Mangone Wetland, Purimu Lake Wetland, Te Awamate Lagoon, Wairau River Wildlife Management Reserve, Wairio Wetland and Takitakitoa Wetland.

The Nature Heritage Fund provides incentives for voluntary conservation on private land, including land purchase, to increase the protection of New Zealand's indigenous ecosystems, including wetlands. In the last triennium, the Nature Heritage Fund supported the protection of wetlands adjacent to the Awarua Wetlands Ramsar Site.

Ngā Whenua Rāhui is a contestable Ministerial fund established in 1991 to provide funding for the protection of indigenous ecosystems on Māori land. Its scope covers the full range of natural diversity originally present in the landscape.

The DOC Community Fund - Pūtea Tautiaki Hapori (administered by the Department of Conservation) provides funding to community-led conservation groups for natural heritage and recreation projects in New Zealand on public and private land and waters.

The New Zealand Government has committed \$100 million NZD over 10 years to the Freshwater Improvement Fund. The Fund is administered by the Ministry for the Environment (see [www.mfe.govt.nz/more/funding/freshwater-improvement-fund](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/funding/freshwater-improvement-fund)). The Fund is for projects costing \$400,000 NZD or more that will improve the quality and availability of water in our water bodies (lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater and wetlands). Allocation of the fund is focused on water bodies in vulnerable catchments that are showing signs of stress but have not yet reached a tipping point where it becomes more expensive and more difficult to restore these water bodies to good health. Many of the projects currently funded involve the restoration of wetlands.

The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust enables landowners to protect special features on their land through its open space covenants. The Trust offers expertise in legal protection, monitoring programmes, and places field representatives to work with landowners.

The New Zealand Landcare Trust works with farmers, landowners and community groups to improve the sustainability of landscapes and waterways. The Trust assists with identifying funding and financial support and providing advice on maintaining project momentum. See [www.landcare.org.nz/About-Us/What-we-do](http://www.landcare.org.nz/About-Us/What-we-do).

The Waikato River Authority funds rehabilitation initiatives for the Waikato River in its role as trustee for the Waikato River Clean-up Trust. See [www.waikatoriver.org.nz/funding/](http://www.waikatoriver.org.nz/funding/).

Industry groups are also supporting general environmental projects. An example is Kids Restore New Zealand, a programme which makes Air New Zealand Environment Trust funding available to support projects (including wetland restoration projects) led by school children with the

support of various agencies and experts. See <http://airnzenvironmenttrust.org.nz/kids-restore-new-zealand/>.

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	D A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
3.4 Additional information:	

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

<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
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
<p>4.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The Freshwater Biodata Information System contains fish, algae, aquatic plant and invertebrate data and metadata gathered from New Zealand's freshwater streams, rivers and lakes, including invasive alien species. See <a href="http://ei.niwa.co.nz/search/fbis">http://ei.niwa.co.nz/search/fbis</a>.</p> <p>The New Zealand Freshwater Fish Database records the occurrence of fish in fresh waters of New Zealand, including introduced fish species. Data stored includes the site location, the species present, abundance and size, and information such as the fishing method used and a physical description of the site. See <a href="http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/nzffd">www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/nzffd</a>.</p> <p>The New Zealand Virtual Herbarium is an on-line botanical information resource accessible via the internet. It provides access to data on plant and fungi specimens kept by New Zealand's herbaria, including invasive wetland plants. See <a href="http://www.virtualherbarium.org.nz/home">www.virtualherbarium.org.nz/home</a>.</p> <p>A Consolidated List of Environmental Weeds in New Zealand was published in 2008 (see <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/documents/science-and-technical/drds292.pdf">www.doc.govt.nz/documents/science-and-technical/drds292.pdf</a>). Other resources focussing on weeds (including invasive wetland plants) include the National Plant Pest Accord Information: see <a href="http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/nppa">www.biosecurity.govt.nz/nppa</a>; National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Aquatic Weed Guide: <a href="http://www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/aquatic-biodiversity-and-biosecurity/our-services/aquaticplants/outreach/species">www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/aquatic-biodiversity-and-biosecurity/our-services/aquaticplants/outreach/species</a>; Weedbusters: <a href="http://www.weedbusters.co.nz">www.weedbusters.co.nz</a>; NZ Plant Conservation network <a href="http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/">www.nzpcn.org.nz/</a>; and NatureWatch: <a href="http://www.naturewatch.org.nz/">www.naturewatch.org.nz/</a>.</p> <p>Several other databases of invasive alien species are also maintained by local authorities and are publicly accessible. See for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northland Regional Council weed control information and identification: <a href="http://www.nrc.govt.nz/environment/weed-and-pest-control/">www.nrc.govt.nz/environment/weed-and-pest-control/</a></li> <li>• Southland Regional Council weed control information and identification: <a href="http://www.es.govt.nz/environment/pest-animals-and-plants/pages/default.aspx">www.es.govt.nz/environment/pest-animals-and-plants/pages/default.aspx</a></li> </ul>	

<p>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</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>As an island nation reliant on agriculture, and with high endemism owing to prolonged isolation from other land masses, biosecurity is a high priority for New Zealand. Biosecurity is managed under the Biosecurity Act 1993. The New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries has an oversight role for biosecurity activity in New Zealand. Multiple government agencies also have a role in components of the pest border security system. The Ministry for Primary Industries takes a lead role in dealing with pests that are considered a national priority and the Department of Conservation manages pests on public conservation land. Regional councils are required to prepare and implement regional pest management strategies under the Biosecurity Act 1993.</p> <p>National Interest Pest Responses aim to eradicate selected established pests from New Zealand. Several of these species are freshwater pest plants including hydrilla, salvinia, hornwort and water hyacinth.</p> <p>The National Pest Plant Accord is aimed at preventing pests already established in New Zealand from spreading further. The Accord is a cooperative agreement between the Nursery and Garden Industry Association, regional councils and central government departments with biosecurity responsibilities. All plants listed in the Accord are unwanted organisms under the Biosecurity Act 1993. These plants cannot be sold, propagated or distributed in New Zealand.</p> <p>For more information on the Ministry of Primary Industry’s biosecurity activities, see <a href="http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/">www.biosecurity.govt.nz/</a></p> <p>The National Biodiversity Strategy also aims to manage invasive alien species to protect our indigenous biodiversity and important introduced species. The Department of Conservation is the lead agency for managing invasive alien species on public conservation land, which includes wetlands.</p> <p>At the local level, communities are often engaged in weed and pest control as part of wetland restoration.</p>	
<p>4.3 How many invasive species are being controlled through management actions?.</p>	<p>G=More than 100</p> <p>E= # species; F=Less than #; G=More than #; C=Partially; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>

4.3 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):

Invasive species management is a significant focus for the New Zealand Government, iwi, NGOs, community and the primary industry sector. As an estimate, more than 100 wetland dependent species (including river, lake, estuary, and wetland species) are currently targeted in large-scale control and surveillance programmes.

For example, biosecurity responses to address the infestation of submerged aquatic plants such as hornwort, *Ceratophyllum demersum* are regularly undertaken in New Zealand. Control of invasive marine and freshwater fish species and other organisms is also common where new infestations are recorded.

The New Zealand Government is currently working with the nursery industry, scientists, and local authorities to contain and control myrtle rust infections. Myrtle rust is a species of introduced pest fungus that could affect iconic New Zealand plants in the myrtle family, including species found in wetlands such as manuka and swamp maire. More information can be found at <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/myrtle-rust/>.

In July 2016 the New Zealand Government announced a Predator Free 2050 goal focusing on eradicating the major pest species of rat, stoat and possum in New Zealand. The Predator-Free 2050 national initiative is building considerable momentum with community groups, philanthropists, researchers, and local and regional authorities now expanding predator control programmes in New Zealand.

4.4 Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?	<b>A</b> A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
4.4 Additional information: The Ministry for Primary Industries, the Department of Conservation, and regional authorities routinely undertake assessments of the effectiveness of invasive species control as part of standard operational procedures.	

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

**Target 5.** *The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective, planning and integrated management {2.1.}*

<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
5.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List</i> ? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	<b>C</b> A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

5.1 Additional information:

In May 2016 New Zealand published Guidelines for the Assessment of Potential Ramsar Sites in New Zealand. The Guidelines are available for use by any interested community groups, central and local government, iwi and other stakeholders. The Guidelines can be found on the Department of Conservation website. See [www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/international-agreements/ramsar-convention-on-wetlands/publications/national-guidelines-for-the-assessment-of-potential-ramsar-wetlands-in-new-zealand/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/international-agreements/ramsar-convention-on-wetlands/publications/national-guidelines-for-the-assessment-of-potential-ramsar-wetlands-in-new-zealand/).

5.2 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.1} KRA 2.2.ii

A

A=Yes; B=No;  
D=Planned

5.2 Additional information:

The Guidelines for the Assessment of Potential Ramsar Sites in New Zealand (see sections 1.A and 5.1 above) use the FEOW freshwater ecoregion and the MEOW realms (Temperate Australia and Southern Ocean) as bioregional framework. The biogeographical regionalisation tools are described on the Ramsar Sites Information Service website. The Guidelines also use the existing Ramsar Information Sheets to analyse representativeness of hydrosystems and wetland types across the current Ramsar Site network in New Zealand.

5.3 How many Ramsar Sites have an effective, implemented management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i

E=6 sites

E= # sites; F=Less than #; G=More than #; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

5.4 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i

E=6 sites

E= # sites; F=Less than #; G=More than #; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

5.5 For how many Ramsar Sites is effective management planning currently being implemented (outside of formal management plans) ? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i

E=6 sites

E= # sites; F=Less than #; G=More than #; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

5.3 – 5.5 Additional information:

The Department of Conservation has implemented a national ecosystem management planning system, which includes all Ramsar Sites.

Ecosystem 'prescriptions' are prepared that outline the key management requirements to maintain and enhance the ecological character of sites. These prescriptions align with and support other management plans (e.g. Manawatu Estuary Management Plan) and can be updated readily as part of annual business planning processes.

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (through formal management plans where they exist or otherwise 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: See additional information referred to at 5.9, below.	

5.7 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.4} {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	E=2 sites E= # sites; F=Less than #; G=More than #; C=Partially; 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):  In the management of Ramsar Sites on Crown Land the Department of Conservation works with iwi to ensure that the strength and nature of their interests in these places are understood and that this understanding is incorporated into the Department of Conservation’s ongoing management of sites in keeping with obligations under section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987.  Two New Zealand Ramsar Sites have formal cross-sectoral committees:” the Manawatu Estuary and Awarua (through the Waituna Partners Group) sites. The remaining sites have formal or informal cross-sectoral agreements.	

5.8 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared (see Resolution X.15)? {2.4.5}{2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	E=0 sites E=# sites; F=Less than #; G=More than #; C=Partially #; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.8 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):	

5.9 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i	C A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Sites
5.9 Additional information (If ‘Yes’ or ‘Some sites’, please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15, and the source of the information):  As part of the Arawai Kākāriki wetland programme, a national review of management effectiveness at the Whangamarino and Awarua Ramsar Sites was completed in 2016.  Assessments of management effectiveness at other sites are in progress as part of the Ramsar Information Sheet reviews. In addition, at all Ramsar Sites, general performance reporting is undertaken as part of the Department of Conservation operational programmes.	

**Target 7. Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed {2.6.}.**

<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
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	<p style="background-color: #ffffcc;">A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Sites; D=Planned</p>
<p>7.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):</p> <p>The Department of Conservation (as Administrative Authority) is responsible for, or directly linked to, the management of all Ramsar Sites. The Scientific and Technical Review Panel National Focal Point is also a staff member of the Department of Conservation. Clear lines of communication therefore exist between Ramsar Site managers, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel National Focal Point and the Ramsar Convention National Focal Point.</p> <p>At all Ramsar Sites, monitoring is implemented by regional authorities, the Department of Conservation, NGOs (eg. the Ornithological Society of New Zealand), and research partners. Monitoring data is shared between organisations and is being used as part of the current update of Ramsar Information Sheets.</p>	
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	<p style="background-color: #ffffcc;">O</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Cases; O=No Negative Change</p>

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):

Taken in their entirety, the ecological character of New Zealand's Ramsar Sites remained overall the same since New Zealand's last (2015) national report\* was submitted.

\*The New Zealand government is progressing the Ramsar Information Sheet updates at present for all Ramsar sites (due for completion in 2018). When completed, the findings of the Ramsar Information Sheet updates will be used to assess whether there is any evidence of likely or actual negative changes in ecological character of Ramsar Sites.

A summary of each Ramsar Site is presented below:

**Whangamarino (central North Island):** The ecological character has improved in some parts, due to management actions including retiring grazing concessions, boundary fencing, management for invasive weeds and animal pests, riparian/wetland planting. However, some parts of the site have shown signs of degradation, mainly due to the impacts of the Lower Waipa/Waikato Flood Scheme.

**Awarua wetland (southern South Island):** The peatland areas of Awarua have improved in condition due to extensive weed control. Parts of the New River Estuary are at risk from eutrophication and sedimentation. The Waituna Lagoon supports a macrophyte community dominated by seagrass, but monitoring has observed increased nutrient loading in the water flowing into the lagoon, which is being further evaluated in the Ramsar Information Sheet review process. The Department of Conservation, Environment Southland, Ngāi Tahu, and the Southland District Council have formed the Waituna Partners Group to work with stakeholders to improve the environmental health of the Waituna lagoon and catchment.

**Manawatu river mouth and estuary (south-western North Island):** The condition of the site has remained largely constant over the last triennium. The Manawatu Estuary Management Plan for 2015-2025 is being implemented by the Manawatu Estuary Management Team. Actions have included invasive weed and predator control, restriction of vehicles near critical bird habitats, clearing vegetation from main shorebird roost, monitoring disturbance due to recreational activities (kite boarding) and enforcing whitebait (harvest of migratory juvenile fish) regulations.

**Firth of Thames (northern North Island):** This is a large coastal site that supports critical habitat for migratory shorebirds. The site has maintained these critical habitats through the management and monitoring efforts of NGOs, government and other stakeholders. It is vulnerable to pressures from sedimentation, mangrove expansion, human disturbance and invasive species, and these pressures are being addressed through new restoration initiatives (including through the Living Water partnership (referred to in section 3.2 above) and catchment planning. The site will be further evaluated in the Ramsar Information Sheet review.

**Kopuatai Peat Dome (central North Island):** This site is relatively protected from catchment pressures given its large size and hydrological regime (rain-fed bog). Some peripheral habitats may be at risk from land use pressures including drainage and flood control schemes and invasive alien species. These issues will be further evaluated in the Ramsar Information Sheet review.

**Farewell Spit (northern South Island):** The condition has largely remained constant over the past triennium. However, it is recognised that implementation of a broader scale monitoring programme will help inform national reporting in future.

7.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii

Z

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



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

### Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

**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

COP13 REPORT	
8.1 Does your country have a complete National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	A A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned
<p>8.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The Freshwater Ecosystems of New Zealand (FENZ) geodatabase of inland palustrine wetlands, rivers/streams and lakes consists of a large set of spatial data layers and supporting information on New Zealand's rivers, lakes and wetlands. FENZ can be used to objectively map and quantify various aspects of New Zealand's freshwater. Various regional councils are now also updating FENZ geodatabase mapping as new information becomes available.</p> <p>Geospatial mapping of coastal wetlands, including their environmental values, has also been compiled as part of an inventory of New Zealand Coastal Hydrosystems and associated coastal classification framework (Hume <i>et al.</i> 2016). See <a href="https://data.mfe.govt.nz/layer/53565-nz-coastal-hydrosystems/">https://data.mfe.govt.nz/layer/53565-nz-coastal-hydrosystems/</a>.</p>	
8.2 Has your country updated a National Wetland Inventory in the last decade?	C A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; C1= Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
<p>8.2 Additional information:</p> <p>The Ministry for the Environment (supported by the Department of Conservation) is currently undertaking a project for environment reporting purposes to update the mapping of inland palustrine wetlands in New Zealand, based on available remote sensing. This assessment began in 2017 and is associated with national state of the environment reporting.</p>	
8.3 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

### 8.3 Additional information:

The FENZ geodatabase (see section 8.1 above) is designed as a support tool to provide a base inventory data layer to be used by other agencies. Various regional councils are now also updating the FENZ geodatabase mapping as new information becomes available. Such updates are enabling assessments of the change in wetland extent over time for some regions of New Zealand.

In 2017, the Ministry for the Environment (supported by the Department of Conservation) launched a project to use available remote sensing to update the mapping of inland palustrine wetlands in New Zealand.

Information on the state and trend of wetlands (in particular rivers and lakes) is maintained by councils, and used for national state of the environment reporting. For example:

- *Our fresh water 2017* domain report (released under the New Zealand Environmental Reporting Act 2015) presents information about the state of New Zealand's fresh water ecosystems and species.
- Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA) is a partnership between regional councils, the New Zealand Cawthron Institute, the Ministry for the Environment, and Massey University and has been supported by the Tindall Foundation online. LAWA provides a publicly available website with information on the quality of all New Zealand freshwater rivers and lakes. The website (available at <https://www.lawa.org.nz/>) displays information from more than 1100 freshwater monitoring sites located around the country.
- Councils in New Zealand regularly produce data and reports providing information on the state of estuaries, rivers, lakes and other wetlands. For example, the Waikato Regional Council recently published data on the extent of freshwater wetlands and the coverage of protected freshwater wetlands within the Waikato region: see <https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/environment/environmental-information/environmental-indicators/lakes/>.

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

A

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

### 8.4 Additional information:

*Our fresh water 2017* domain report (see section 8.3 above) is publicly available on the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment website. See [www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/environmental-reporting/our-fresh-water-2017](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/environmental-reporting/our-fresh-water-2017). Other information, such as an infographic summary, underpinning datasets, and supporting scientific papers for the domain report are also available at this website.

*Our marine environment 2016* domain report (released under the New Zealand Environmental Reporting Act 2015) is publicly available on the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment website. See [www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/marine-environmental-reporting/our-marine-environment-2016](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/marine-environmental-reporting/our-marine-environment-2016). Other information, such as an infographic summary and underpinning datasets are also available at this website.

The FENZ geodatabase (see section 8.1 above) and LAWA website are publicly available for use by stakeholders.

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

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

### a) Ramsar sites

Taken in their entirety, the condition of New Zealand's Ramsar Sites has not changed significantly overall since the last report\*.

\*The New Zealand Government is progressing Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) updates at present (due for completion in 2018). When completed, the findings of the RIS updates will be used to assess whether there is any evidence of likely or actual negative changes in ecological character of Ramsar Sites. See section 7.2 for more details.

### b) Wetlands in general

*Our fresh water 2017* domain report (see section 8.3 above) presents information about the state of New Zealand's fresh water. It identifies that wetland extent has greatly reduced since human arrival in New Zealand and losses continue. For example, a report published by Environment Southland (2016) reported that over 1200 ha of wetlands were lost between 2007 and 2015 in Southland, equivalent to a 10% loss in the Southland study area since 2007.

Other key findings for New Zealand reported in *Our fresh water 2017* are as follows:

- Nitrate-nitrogen concentrations were worsening at more monitored river sites than improving.
- Dissolved reactive phosphorus concentrations were improving at more monitored river sites than worsening.
- E.coli concentrations affect our ability to swim in some rivers.
- More than half the water allocated (or consented) by councils is for irrigation. However actual quantity used is unknown.
- Of the native species reported on, around three-quarters of fish, one-third of invertebrates, and one-third of plants are threatened with, or at risk of, extinction.
- Some water bodies have been physically changed, but we do not know the extent or the impact this is having.
- Fine sediment deposited on riverbeds is estimated to have increased.
- Cultural health is rated moderate at most tested freshwater sites.

Further, the *Our marine environment 2016* domain report, reported that a key issue is the degradation of coastal habitats and ecosystems. Key findings were:

- Excess sedimentation is an important threat to coastal habitats.
- The levels of heavy metals in monitored estuaries and harbours are mostly at levels unlikely to cause harm to seabed species.
- The threat from non-indigenous species in our coastal waters has increased.
- Of the 14 indigenous shorebird species and subspecies that breed in New Zealand, eight (59 per cent) are classified as threatened with extinction and four (29 per cent) are at risk of extinction.

<p>8.6 Based upon the National Wetland Inventory if available please provide a baseline figure in square kilometres for the extent of wetlands (according to the Ramsar definition) for the year 2017. SDG Target 6.6</p>	<p>D</p> <p>E= # Km<sup>2</sup> ; F=Less than #; G=More than #; A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>8.6 Additional information: If the information is available please indicate the % of change in the extent of wetlands over the last three years.</p> <p>New Zealand has comprehensive geospatial data on the extent of marine, estuarine, lake, river and inland palustrine wetlands. These datasets apply a New Zealand classification, and to date have not been integrated to provide a single assessment of wetland extent according to the Ramsar criteria.</p> <p>For example, the national inventory of inland palustrine wetlands (excluding rivers, lakes, estuaries) was completed in 2008 (Ausseil <i>et al.</i> 2008) and is now included within the FENZ geodatabase. This inventory calculated that New Zealand supports approximately 250,000 ha of inland palustrine wetlands.</p>	

**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.}*

<p><b>COP13 REPORT</b></p>	
<p>9.1 Is a Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) that promotes the wise use of wetlands in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i (If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned</p>

### 9.1 Additional information:

Two statutory national policy statements cover wetlands: the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2014, amended 2017) and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010.

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (Freshwater NPS) provides direction on how local authorities should carry out their responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 for managing fresh water. The Freshwater NPS directs regional councils, in consultation with their communities, to set objectives for the state of fresh water management units in their regions and to set limits to meet these objectives.

Some of the key requirements of the Freshwater NPS are to:

- Safeguard the life-supporting capacity and ecosystem processes of fresh water;
- Safeguard the health of people who come into contact with fresh water through recreation;
- Maintain or improve the overall quality of fresh water;
- Protect the significant values of wetlands and outstanding fresh water bodies;
- Follow a specific process (sometimes referred to as the National Objectives Framework) for identifying the values that iwi and communities have for water; and using a specified set of water quality measures (called attributes) to set objectives;
- Set limits on resource use, e.g. how much water can be taken or how much of a contaminant can be discharged, to meet objectives over time and ensure they continue to be met;
- Determine the appropriate set of methods to meet limits and objectives;
- Take an integrated approach to managing land use, fresh water, and coastal water;
- Involve iwi and hapū in decision-making and fresh water management.

The following amendments to the Freshwater NPS came into force in September 2017:

- Maintaining or improving overall water quality: new provisions clarify requirements for regional councils about maintaining or improving overall water quality, to make the requirements clearer.
- Managing nitrogen and phosphorus: there are new requirements for regional councils to follow when managing the level nitrogen and phosphorus which can go into waterways to meet a periphyton objective. These requirements also consider sensitive downstream receiving environments.
- Te Mana o te Wai: the concept of Te Mana o te Wai recognises fresh water as a natural resource that is integral to the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of communities. The Freshwater NPS has been updated to clarify the meaning of Te Mana o te Wai in fresh water management.
- Monitoring macroinvertebrates: in addition to existing monitoring requirements, regional councils are now required to monitor progress towards freshwater objectives and values using macroinvertebrates, indigenous flora and fauna, and Mātauranga Māori (the body of indigenous Māori knowledge). Regional Councils are required to establish methods for responding to monitoring, and make monitoring information publicly available.

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 provides guidance on national priorities for biodiversity in the coastal environment. Policies and priorities address indigenous biological

diversity, natural areas, natural features and natural landscapes/ seascapes, include protection from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.

In September 2016 the New Zealand Government published a targeted update of the original New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (2000). The [New Zealand Biodiversity Action Plan](#) sets national targets and associated actions that allow us to show progress towards the five goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity by 2020. The Action Plan showcases some of the significant national actions being undertaken through the combined efforts of central and local government, iwi, hapū, whanau (families) resource managers, communities, private landowners and businesses. [Predator Free 2050](#) and the [Cape to City project \(external site\)](#) are some examples of this national effort.

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

9.3 Do your country's water governance and management systems treat wetlands 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
<p>9.3 Additional information:</p> <p>Freshwater management in New Zealand is undertaken at a catchment or multiple catchment level, at the scale of river basins.</p> <p>Under the Freshwater NPS, regional authorities are directed to implement freshwater planning using specific Freshwater Management Units. Freshwater Management Units are defined as 'A water body, multiple water bodies or any part of a water body determined by the regional council as the appropriate spatial scale for setting freshwater objectives and limits and for freshwater accounting and management.'</p> <p>To assist regional authorities in identifying Freshwater Management Units, the Ministry for the Environment published national guidelines in 2016 'A Guide to Identifying Freshwater Management Units Under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014' (Ministry for the Environment, 2016).</p>	

9.4 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.7.2}{1.7.3}	A A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
<p>9.4 Additional information:</p> <p>The New Zealand Landcare Trust supports communities in developing catchment-scaled solutions to water quality issues. The Trust brings Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise to facilitate meetings, link communities with research agencies, and develop tools such as WETMAK (a web based training resource with six basic wetland monitoring modules that can be used for various field and administrative management activities), catchment guides, and case studies.</p>	

	A
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<p>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</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>9.5 Additional information:</p> <p>There is increasing guidance and information relating to climate change in New Zealand, including adaptation and mitigation responses for wetlands.</p> <p>The Freshwater NPS stipulates that regional plans must establish freshwater objectives and set freshwater quality limits for all Freshwater Management Units, having regard to the reasonably foreseeable impacts of climate change. It also has a policy to protect the significant values of wetlands.</p> <p>The Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group was set up in November 2016 to provide advice to the Government on adapting to the impacts of climate change. The Group is made up of technical experts across government and the private sector. The Group will provide advice on options for building New Zealand’s resilience to the effects of climate change while sustainably growing the economy. Advice from the Technical Working Group is based on sound evidence, starting with a stocktake of existing adaptation work across central and local government and the private sector. A final report from the Group will be issued by March 2018. See <a href="http://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/adapting-climate-change">www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/adapting-climate-change</a>.</p> <p>A 2013 report from the Department of Conservation outlined the key climate pressures acting on freshwater in New Zealand, and presents a range of potential adaptation strategies. See <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/climate-change-proceedings.pdf">www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/climate-change-proceedings.pdf</a>.</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>9.6 Additional information:</p> <p>Agriculture is a core component of New Zealand primary industries, and this sector is actively engaging in projects that promote sustainable catchment management, including management of wetlands – through agencies such as Dairy New Zealand and Beef and Lamb New Zealand.</p> <p>Crown Research Institutes, such as the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, and Landcare Research, have also invested in applied research for example to develop and test effectiveness of constructed wetlands to address water quality effects associated with nutrient run-off from agriculture.</p> <p>The Living Water partnership (see section 3.2 above) in the Wairua catchment in the Kaipara Harbour aims to contribute to knowledge in New Zealand by identifying options to improve ecosystem services that benefit farmers and the catchment (flood, sediment and nutrient mitigation); and to demonstrate the value created for agricultural systems of securing and expanding wetland remnants.</p>	
<p>9.7 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) agriculture-wetland interactions</li> <li>b) climate change</li> <li>c) valuation of ecosystem services</li> </ul> <p>{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned</p> <p>a) A b) A c) A</p>



9.7 Additional information:

Research on aquatic ecosystem functioning and biological conservation in New Zealand is considered to be of a high standard, including research on agriculture-wetland interactions, climate change and ecosystem services.

A key achievement was publication of 'Advances in New Zealand Freshwater Science' (Jellyman *et al.* 2016), comprising 34 chapters, summarising the current state of knowledge about freshwater management in New Zealand. See the Freshwater Sciences Society website (<http://freshwater.science.org.nz/>).

Intensive research into bog eco-physiology in the Kopuatai Ramsar Site has recently confirmed the site is year-round carbon sink and therefore provides a crucial role in carbon storage and contributes to climate change mitigation: <https://www.biogeosciences.net/14/4563/2017/bg-14-4563-2017.pdf>

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):	

**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.*

COP13 REPORT	
10.1 Have the guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19) been used or applied? (Action 6.1.2/ 6.1.6)	C A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; C1= Partially; D= Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
10.1 Additional information:  In New Zealand, there is a high awareness of the cultural value of wetlands and a range of programmes are underway to increase the use of traditional knowledge (Mātauranga Māori) in wetland management (refer 10.3 and 10.4), as well as existing statutory requirements to engage with iwi as part of resource management.	
10.2 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

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

See additional information provided at 10.3, below.

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

B

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

10.3 Additional information: (If the answer is "yes" please indicate the use or application of the guidelines)

Establishing and strengthening Mātauranga Māori in wetland management is a focus for many iwi, government, and community projects in New Zealand, and is aligned with the guidelines.

Examples of guidelines, best-practice approaches, and significant programmes include:

- State of the Takiwa: an environmental monitoring and reporting process that integrates Mātauranga Māori and western science.
- Te Reo o Te Repo: a new resource publication (see refer section 10.4 below).
- Te Mana o Te Wai fund: funding for projects that support or enable iwi/hapū to improve the water quality of freshwater bodies, including lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries and lagoons.
- Guidance on Māori Values and Perspectives: to inform collaborative processes and planning for freshwater management'. See [https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/111042/PB\\_14\\_Maori\\_Values\\_Perspectives.pdf](https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/111042/PB_14_Maori_Values_Perspectives.pdf).
- Oranga Taiao Oranga Tāngata: a 4-year research programme funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment from October 2015 to September 2019 at over \$1 million NZD per year. The Programme aims to address sustaining and restoring New Zealand's estuaries and lakes through enhanced knowledge and actions that improve the quality and resilience of these ecosystems. The research is developing knowledge and toolsets for application throughout New Zealand. More information can be found at [www.mtm.ac.nz/oranga-taiao-oranga-tangata/](http://www.mtm.ac.nz/oranga-taiao-oranga-tangata/).

10.4 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

10.4 Additional information:

In 2017, a significant new publication describing traditional knowledge and management practices was released, 'Te Reo o Te Repo: The voice of the wetland' (Taura *et al.* 2017). Te Reo o Te Repo is an online wetland handbook created collaboratively between the Waikato Raupatu River Trust and Manaaki Whenua-Landcare Research, and funded mainly by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Wetland Restoration Programme.

The handbook highlights a range of mahi (work) undertaken by iwi and hapū to increase the health and wellbeing of their repo (wetlands). Information shared includes processes for facilitating renewed and vibrant connections between whānau and their resources, understanding our cultural resources, and learning from case studies on wetland restoration,

cultural indicators, and monitoring, all led by or in collaboration with iwi. See [www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/books/te-reo-o-te-repo](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/books/te-reo-o-te-repo).

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

<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
	<b>A</b>
<p>11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; C1=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>11.1 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):</p> <p>A New Zealand review of the ecosystem services that wetlands provide was published in 2013 (Clarkson <i>et al.</i> 2013). In addition to assessing contemporary benefits/services, the publication noted that, 'New Zealand Māori greatly valued wetlands for their spiritual and cultural significance and as important sources of food and other materials closely linked to their identity'.</p> <p>Refer to: Clarkson, B.R., Ausseil, A.E., Gerbeaux, P. (2013). 'Wetland ecosystem services'. In Dymond, J.R. (ed.) <i>Ecosystem services in New Zealand – conditions and trends</i>. Manaaki Whenua Press: Lincoln, New Zealand.</p> <p>The ecosystem services/benefits of some Ramsar sites in New Zealand have also been specifically assessed in technical reports and as part of reviewing catchment management, including for the Whangamarino and Awarua sites.</p> <p>Research by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research in the field of estuarine and coastal ecosystem services has produced technical reports and papers from a number of scientific research studies. These can be found at: <a href="http://www.niwa.co.nz/coasts-and-oceans/research-projects/mapping-the-ecosystem-service-potential-of-our-coasts">www.niwa.co.nz/coasts-and-oceans/research-projects/mapping-the-ecosystem-service-potential-of-our-coasts</a>.</p> <p>The Living Water partnership (see section 3.2 above) in the Wairua catchment in the Kaipara Harbour (in the Northern North Island of New Zealand) aims to secure and protect remnant wetlands and riparian forest. The Partnership aims to contribute to knowledge in New Zealand by identifying options to improve ecosystems services that benefit farmers and the catchment (flood, sediment and nutrient mitigation); and to demonstrate the value created for agricultural systems of securing and expanding wetland remnants. See <a href="http://www.livingwater.net.nz/kaipara/#hikurangi-catchment-catchment-focus">www.livingwater.net.nz/kaipara/#hikurangi-catchment-catchment-focus</a>.</p>	
	<b>Y</b>
<p>11.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>

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

C  
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):

A range of formal and informal mechanisms are applied in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, which take into consideration the spectrum of socio-economic values held by stakeholders, iwi, community and industry.

Two recent examples relevant to Ramsar Sites are:

- A report summarising the Community Values for the Waituna Catchment and Lagoon, Awarua Wetland. See [www.es.govt.nz/Document%20Library/Research%20and%20reports/Wetlands%20reports/determining\\_the\\_values\\_for\\_the\\_waituna\\_catchment\\_and\\_lagoon\\_report\\_-\\_2015\\_09\\_-\\_agresearch.pdf](http://www.es.govt.nz/Document%20Library/Research%20and%20reports/Wetlands%20reports/determining_the_values_for_the_waituna_catchment_and_lagoon_report_-_2015_09_-_agresearch.pdf).
- Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari: An initiative designed to secure a healthy, productive and sustainable future for the Hauraki Gulf, including the Firth of Thames.

11.4 Have cultural 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

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

The Department of Conservation works in close partnership with iwi across New Zealand as Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) partners, including iwi associated with Ramsar Sites and other wetlands.

Cultural values are embedded within wetland management and are described within all Conservation Management Strategies (administered by the Department of Conservation), and Regional and District Plans (administered by councils).

The Freshwater NPS requires the significant values of wetlands and outstanding freshwater bodies to be protected. Cultural values are deemed to be significant, and the concept of Te Mana o te Wai also applies.

**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.}

COP13 REPORT

A

12.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
<p>12.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The Department of Conservation and the Ministry for the Environment have identified fresh water restoration as a strategic national priority.</p> <p>In 2017, the New Zealand Government committed \$44 million NZD of funding to 33 projects to improve fresh water management through the Freshwater Improvement Fund. The Government (through the Department of Conservation) is also implementing a national Freshwater Stretch Goal (50 fresh water ecosystems restored: mountains to the sea).</p> <p>Both of these initiatives required an assessment of the national priorities for wetland restoration, and focused on geospatial assessment of New Zealand's vulnerable fresh water catchments. For example, see: <a href="https://data.mfe.govt.nz/layer/53523-vulnerable-catchments/">https://data.mfe.govt.nz/layer/53523-vulnerable-catchments/</a>.</p> <p>The assessment of vulnerable sites was supported by the FENZ geodatabase. See: <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/freshwater-ecosystems-of-new-zealand/">www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/freshwater-ecosystems-of-new-zealand/</a>.</p> <p>See section 3.2 above for more information about the priority sites identified for the Living Water partnership.</p>	

12.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been effectively implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i	<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>12.2 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if available the extent of wetlands restored):</p> <p>During the past triennium significant investment in wetland restoration programmes has occurred through government, iwi, industry, NGO and community led initiatives.</p> <p>Some examples of projects that have been implemented are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Arawai Kākāriki Wetland Restoration Programme (led by the Department of Conservation). This Programme will invest \$1.6 million NZD per annum in three large scale wetland sites (Whangamarino Wetland, O Tu Wharekai/Ashburton Basin and Awarua Wetland).</li> <li>- The Fresh Start for Fresh Water Clean-Up Fund (coordinated by the Ministry for the Environment). The Fund provided \$15 million NZD in funding from 2011 to 2014 to help communities clean up the following waterways affected by historical water quality issues at seven sites.</li> <li>- Living Water (see section 3.2 above).</li> </ul>	

**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

<p>13.1 Have actions been taken to enhance sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands?</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned</p>
<p>13.1. Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):</p> <p>The Freshwater NPS was amended in 2017 to provide greater direction and clarification to regional authorities carrying out responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 for managing fresh water (see section 9.1 above).</p> <p>The Freshwater Improvement Fund has funded several projects involving the restoration of wetlands and to enhance catchment sustainability (see section 3.3 above).</p> <p>Industry accords include objectives to reduce the effects of industries on wetlands. Forestry companies and Landcorp (a state-owned enterprise) have identified and legally protected wetlands on land they administer or manage in New Zealand.</p>	
<p>13.2 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</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>13.2 Additional information:</p> <p>The Resource Management Act 1991 is the key legislation in New Zealand that sets the policy and planning framework for the assessment of development projects. Under the Act, all regional authorities must prepare regional and district plans that outline a strategic approach to protecting environmental values, including wetlands, through the implementation of sustainable development policies that achieve long-term environmental objectives.</p>	
<p>13.3 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</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Cases</p>
<p>13.3 Additional information:</p> <p>The Resource Management Act 1991 is the key legislation in New Zealand that sets the policy and planning framework for the assessment of development projects. Under the Act, development projects must assess the adverse effects of the activity on a broad range of environmental values, including wetlands. The Resource Management Act 1991 assessment must occur before permission may be granted for the development activity.</p>	

## GOAL 4. Enhancing implementation

**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.}

<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
15.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i	A
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
<p>15.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):</p> <p>The New Zealand Government and NGO partners support the implementation of the Ramsar regional initiative relating to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership. Support includes both direct and in-kind funding for the Partnership, and participating in national and international forums to progress the objectives of the Partnership.</p>	

15.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}	D
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
<p>15.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):</p> <p>New Zealand, in collaboration with other Oceania contracting Parties, is currently reviewing a proposal put forward by the Hunter Wetland Centre (Australia) for the development of a Ramsar Regional Centre in the Oceania region.</p>	

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

<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
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
<p>a) At the national level</p> <p>b) Sub-national level</p> <p>c) Catchment/basin level</p> <p>d) Local/site level</p> <p>(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below)</p>	<p>a) C</p> <p>b) A</p> <p>c) A</p> <p>d) A</p>
<p>16.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):</p> <p>A draft Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Action Plan has been prepared to provide a national framework for coordinated delivery of wetland CEPA in New Zealand. It sets out actions and priorities for the next 10 years, identifying who might lead the action and who the target audience is. It covers all five components of CEPA with the overall strategic intent of empowering people to take action for wetlands.</p>	

The Action plan has been drafted by a small focus group but still requires further input and review by other stakeholders involved in wetland management before being adopted.

The Action plan has been drafted by a small focus group including representatives of the National Wetland Trust and the Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Group but still requires further input and review by other stakeholders involved in wetland management before being adopted.

The Volcanoes to Sea project is an example of a catchment level CEPA plan which uses a case study to provide guidance on applying CEPA in an urban catchment. See <http://www.landcare.org.nz/Regional-Focus/Auckland-Office/CURE-Guide>.

<p>16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>E= # centres; F=Less than #; G=More than #; C= Partially; X=Unknown; y=Not Relevant;</p> <p>a) E=1 centre</p> <p>b) E=&gt;10 centres</p>
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16.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):

**a) Ramsar Sites**

The Firth of Thames Ramsar Site is the location for the Pūkoro-koro Miranda Shorebird Centre, owned and operated by the Pūkoro-koro Miranda Naturalists' Trust. The Centre offers education programmes and both day visits and overnight camps. The centre has hosted hundreds of visits by local and international visitors, schools, and tertiary institutions. See [www.miranda-shorebird.org.nz/about-us](http://www.miranda-shorebird.org.nz/about-us).

Interpretation for site visitors also occurs at the Awarua Wetland Ramsar Site, Manawatu Estuary Ramsar site and the Farewell Spit Ramsar Site.

**b) Other wetlands (examples)**

There are a range of other visitor centres in New Zealand that have a focus on wetlands. Some examples of these are outlined below:

- The Visitor Centre at the National Trout Centre (Turangi) provides interpretation and education on freshwater ecology and the sustainable use of freshwater.
- The Travis Wetland education centre (Christchurch) provides a laboratory, educational facility and meeting space for groups.
- Sinclair Wetland (Otago) is privately owned by Te Rūnunga o Ngāi Tahu. It includes an information centre. See [www.openspace.org.nz/Site/Places\\_to\\_visit/South\\_Island\\_public/Sinclair\\_Wetland.aspx](http://www.openspace.org.nz/Site/Places_to_visit/South_Island_public/Sinclair_Wetland.aspx).
- An outdoor wetland education discovery trail, developed by the National Wetland Trust at Rotopiko near Hamilton, provides a self-guided experience for schools and families.

There are also numerous examples of interpretation centres linked to freshwater and estuarine wetlands, including: Mangarakau Swamp, Waikoropupū Springs, Huka Falls/Waikato River, and O Tu Wharekai/Ashburton Basin.



The National Wetland Trust is continuing the development of plans for a National Wetland Education centre that will include exhibits on Ramsar Sites.

<p>16.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p> <p>a) A</p> <p>b) A</p>
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16.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):

a) There are established processes in New Zealand for promoting public participation in planning and management. A key opportunity is in the development of region-wide Conservation Management Strategies and Regional Plans, which require public participation and provide the opportunity for public submissions on how wetlands should be managed.

b) Stakeholder consultation and support for nomination is an important criterion for selection of new Ramsar Sites in New Zealand.

In the management of Ramsar Sites on Crown Land the Department of Conservation works with iwi to ensure that the strength and nature of their interests in these places are understood and that this understanding is incorporated into the Department of Conservation's ongoing management of sites in keeping with obligations under section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987.

While only two New Zealand Ramsar Sites have a formal cross-sectoral management committee, there are formal or informal cross-sectoral agreements for all New Zealand Ramsar Sites.

<p>16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v</p>	<p>B</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>16.4 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP12; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p>	

<p>16.5 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v</p>	<p>C</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>16.5 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP12; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>New Zealand does not have a formal national Ramsar or wetland committee. However a range of environmental and conservation forums have been established that provide national advice to central government agencies, in particular, the New Zealand Conservation Authority and the Land and Water Forum.</p>	

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

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

The Department of Conservation is both the Administrative Authority for the Convention and an agency responsible for the operational delivery of services at Ramsar Sites. The role the Department plays ensures regular and ongoing communication between national focal points with Ramsar Site managers.

The National Wetland Trust provides several communication mechanisms to exchange information including regular wetland restoration symposia and newsletters which have frequently included Ramsar-related articles.

In 2015, the Department of Conservation and the National Wetland Trust jointly hosted a Ramsar Symposium to share information among Ramsar Site managers and a range of ministries, departments and agencies. Over 100 practitioners and Ramsar Site Managers attended the Symposium.

<p>16.7 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP12? {4.1.8}</p>	<p>A</p>
	<p>A=Yes; B=No</p>

16.7 Additional information:

New Zealand holds World Wetlands Day activities each year. On average, around 10 activities are held each year and include guided activities, kayaking and boat trips. Some examples of events held in New Zealand in 2017 are:

- Launch of new guide: Sea of Glistening Waters (Wairarapa Moana Wetlands)
- Matuku Link Celebration (Auckland)
- Estuary Fest, McCormacks Bay Reserve (Christchurch)
- Rotopiko Wetland Discovery Trail Launch, Free Family Fun Day (Lake Rotopiko/Lake Serpentine)
- Launch of Te Reo o Te Repo - the Voice of the Wetland (Lake Rotopiko)
- Waipu Lagoon visit, Bell Block (New Plymouth)

Guidelines for organising a wetland event and designing a wetland challenge for World Wetlands Day have been jointly published by the Department of Conservation and the National Wetland Trust. See [www.doc.govt.nz/worldwetlandsday](http://www.doc.govt.nz/worldwetlandsday).

Fish and Game New Zealand and the Game Bird Habitat Trust celebrate World Wetlands Day each year with the release of the Game Bird Trust Stamp programme annual stamp. Annual stamp launches are usually associated with the opening or restoration of an important wetland project.

In February 2017, the annual stamp launch took place at the Underwood Wetland with the Hon Nicky Wagner (then Associate Minister for Conservation) officiating (see section 2.A (5) above).

<p>16.8 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP12 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned</p>
<p>16.8 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):</p> <p>A number of events have been organised at the Whangamarino Ramsar Site and in the Waikato region in general to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands. Wetland activities often feature during Conservation Week in New Zealand (October), providing an opportunity for people to visit wetlands and learn more about their values. Such events have been organised by a variety of organisations including local authorities and community groups.</p> <p>A number of campaigns occur around specific wetland species, for example, the whio (blue duck) which is a nationally vulnerable species found only in New Zealand. A <i>Whio Forever Education Resource</i> was produced in 2016 and there is a whio creche at the Tongariro National Trout Centre with displays for visiting public. An annual publicity campaign occurs in August at the start of the whitebait fishing season alerting people to the regulations but also emphasising the importance of maintaining clean, healthy rivers and streams for adult fish. Preventing the spread of exotic alga (didymo) and other freshwater species is an ongoing campaign promoted by the Department of Conservation and the Ministry for Primary Industries.</p> <p>The Kiwi Guardians programme, launched in 2015 with sponsorship support from Toyota New Zealand, is an activity programme for children to learn more about nature and earn a medal in the process. Several wetland sites are included in the programme and involve children visiting lakes, streams, swamps and bogs to collect information.</p> <p>A New Zealand Ramsar Symposium was held in 2015 to bring together wetland managers of Ramsar Sites and others involved in developing national and regional policy for wetlands or educational material or generally interested in wetland management. A number of workshops were held on subjects such as Ramsar Site nominations, site management, wise use, World Wetlands Day and CEPA aspects – the latter leading to the development of a draft CEPA Action Plan.</p> <p>The biennial National Wetland Restoration Symposium organised by the National Wetland Trust was held in Nelson in February 2016. The theme was Wetlands for Life, and there was a strong focus at the Symposium on young people. The Symposium brought a diverse group of people involved in wetland management together to discuss issues, share information and strengthen networks. The next symposium will be held in 2018.</p>	

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

COP13 REPORT	
<p>17.1</p> <p>a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2015, 2016 and 2017? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable</p>

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 New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Programme provides core, untagged, multi-year funding to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). SPREP's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management programme activities include wetland conservation and restoration work, implementing the Pacific Regional Wetlands Action Plan and supporting engagement with the Ramsar Convention and its Pacific Island member states.	

17.4 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii	Z
	A=Yes; B=No; C= Partially; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant; Z=Not Applicable
17.4 Additional information: The New Zealand Aid Programme has an Environmental and Social Impacts Operational Policy and Guideline. The Policy and Guideline requires activities to be assessed for environmental impact, to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place and to identify opportunities to deliver positive environmental outcomes.	

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}**

<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
<p>18.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.1} {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i &amp; 3.1.iv</p>	<p><b>C</b></p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>18.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The Department of Conservation is the Ramsar Administrative Authority and is also the focal point for other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; the Convention on Migratory Species; and the Convention on Biological Diversity). This provides for the integration and assessment of key issues across these multilateral environmental agreements.</p>	
<p>18.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.2} {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv</p>	<p><b>A</b></p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>18.2 Additional information:</p> <p>The Department of Conservation works closely with other government agencies and global bodies on cross-cutting issues, including issues of relevance to implementation of the Ramsar Convention.</p>	
<p>18.3 Has your country received assistance from one or more UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO) or the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.ii.</p> <p>The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, WWF and Wildfowl &amp; Wetland Trust (WWT).</p>	<p><b>B</b></p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>18.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the agency (es) or IOP (s) and the type of assistance received):</p>	
<p>18.4 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}</p>	<p><b>A</b></p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
<p>18.4 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):</p> <p>Various wetland scientists from Crown Research Institutes, universities and the government regularly engage with international/national colleagues and develop collaborative, information</p>	

sharing projects. A leading national project is the 'Restoring wetland ecosystem functioning' research programme led by Crown Research Institute Landcare Research that has multiple arrangements with government, iwi and community to share knowledge and advance understanding. See

[www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/ecosystems/wetland-ecosystems](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/ecosystems/wetland-ecosystems).

Local arrangements are also in place at some Ramsar Sites. For example, a Waituna Partners Group was established at the Awarua Wetland Ramsar Site, to share information and improve management.

The biennial National Wetland Restoration Symposium organised by the National Wetland Trust provides regular opportunities for practical training and sharing experience among wetland managers (as well as landowners, scientists, iwi and members of the wetland community) from across New Zealand.

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:

Information about New Zealand's Ramsar Sites is available on the Department of Conservation Website (at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/international-agreements/ramsar-convention-on-wetlands/nz-wetlands-of-international-importance/>). An information brochure covering 40 wetlands to visit in New Zealand is available as a hard copy or can be downloaded from the Department of Conservation website at:

[www.doc.govt.nz/nature/habitats/wetlands/wetlands-by-region/magical-places-40-wetlands-to-visit-in-new-zealand-brochure/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/habitats/wetlands/wetlands-by-region/magical-places-40-wetlands-to-visit-in-new-zealand-brochure/).

The National Wetland Trust of New Zealand website has an on-line directory of wetlands to visit in New Zealand and specific pages on each of the nation's Ramsar Sites. An illustrated book featuring five of New Zealand's Ramsar sites has been published by the Trust and is available for purchase. The Trust also publishes information about wetlands/Ramsar sites in their regular newsletter.

A website specific to the Awarua-Waituna Ramsar Site was launched in December 2017. The website includes details about the open/closed status of the Waituna Lagoon, socio-economic and biodiversity values, and details about the various groups and agencies contributing to the site's management. See [www.waituna.org.nz](http://www.waituna.org.nz).

A broad range of technical reports that summarise monitoring results on the condition of wetlands and Ramsar Sites have also been produced. For example, these include:

- 1) *Our fresh water 2017* domain report (see section 8.3 above).
- 2) Arawai Kākāriki science bibliography: a summary of technical reports from 2007-2016 produced from a national wetland restoration programme.
- 3) Regional council monitoring and reports.

C

18.6 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? {3.4.3} KRA 3.4.ii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
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18.6 Additional information:

The information brochure covering 40 wetlands to visit in New Zealand was submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat.

A recent overview on 'Wetlands of New Zealand' was published in *The Wetland Book II: Distribution, Description and Conservation*. This presents a summary of wetland ecology and management in New Zealand. See [https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-94-007-6173-5\\_176-1](https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-94-007-6173-5_176-1).

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

18.8 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	Z A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; Y=Not Relevant
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18.8 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):

18.9 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
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18.9 Additional information:

The Pūkorokoro/Miranda Naturalists' Trust became a non-governmental signatory to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership in 2006.

New Zealand became a government signatory to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership in 2011.

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

<b>COP13 REPORT</b>	
	B

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

19.2 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes}.	A A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
<p>19. 2 Additional information: If you answer yes to the above please provide information on which mechanisms and materials</p> <p>The established EnviroSchools programme (see <a href="http://www.enviroschools.org.nz/">www.enviroschools.org.nz/</a>) integrates a range of environmental topics (including projects relating to wetlands and freshwater) into education in New Zealand.</p> <p>The Department of Conservation has also actively supported wetland education through the LEARNZ programme at the nationally significant O Tu Wharekai wetland. This involves virtual field trips to a remote, high country wetland ecosystem.</p> <p>More information can be found at <a href="http://rata.learnz.org.nz/summary.php?vft=wetlandbiodiversity171">http://rata.learnz.org.nz/summary.php?vft=wetlandbiodiversity171</a>.</p> <p>The National Wetland Trust provides an annual Golden Plover Award to support tertiary level research projects.</p>	

19.3 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP12? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv a) at Ramsar Sites b) at other wetlands	a) b) E=# opportunities; F=Less than #; G= More than #; C= Partially; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
<p>19.3 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>Crown Research Institutes, the Department of Conservation, local authorities and some technical institutes run a number of courses linked to training in wetlands, including identifying wetland biodiversity. Most of these training opportunities are offered to anyone wishing to attend, including wetland site managers. The Landcare Trust developed WETMAK (see <a href="http://www.landcare.org.nz/wetmak">www.landcare.org.nz/wetmak</a>) and has run three training events since 2015. WETMAK is a web based training resource with six basic wetland monitoring modules that can be used for various field and administrative management activities.</p> <p>Auckland Council developed a wetland restoration training workshop in 2014. This has been delivered several times since 2015.</p> <p>The biennial National Wetland Restoration Symposia provides training opportunities for all New Zealanders, on wetland management and monitoring. These symposia are organised by the</p>	



National Wetland Trust, with the support of multiple agencies. They aim to provide a highly practical, participant-driven forum for knowledge exchange, training and networking for landowners, iwi, people committed to wetland biodiversity and restoration, policy makers and wetland scientists from all over New Zealand. In 2016, the Symposium was held in Nelson, New Zealand with more than 150 people participating. The 2018 event is currently being organised: see [www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/Site/Wetland\\_Events/Restoration\\_Symposia.ashx](http://www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/Site/Wetland_Events/Restoration_Symposia.ashx).

<p>19.4 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable</p>
<p>19.4 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):</p> <p>National Reporting provides an opportunity to stocktake activities in wetland management regionally and nationally.</p>	