

# Ramsar Site visitor management

*its contribution to the*

**Ramsar Strategic Plan**

and the

**Sustainable Development Goals**



**it's all about communication ...**

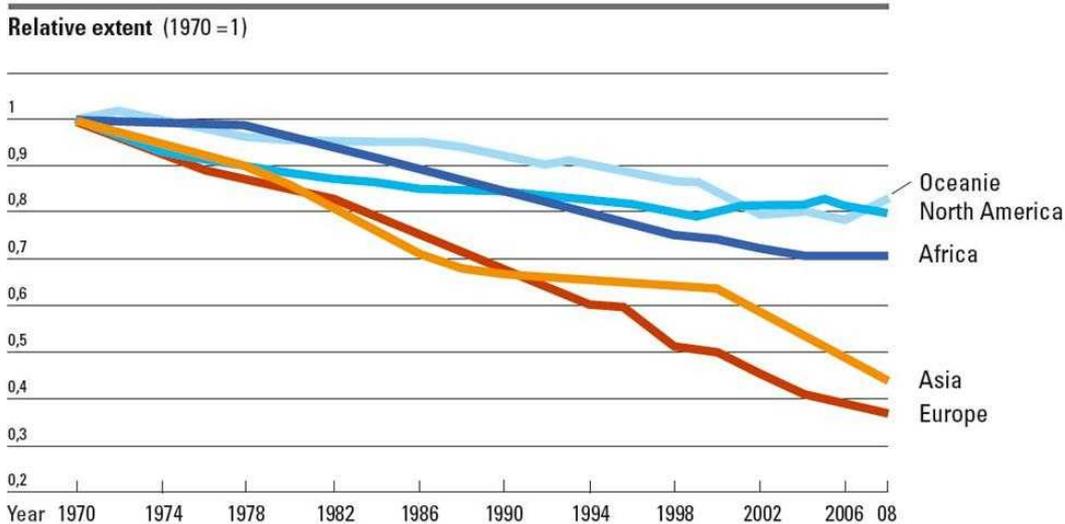


wetlands disappear faster ...  
... *than any other ecosystem*

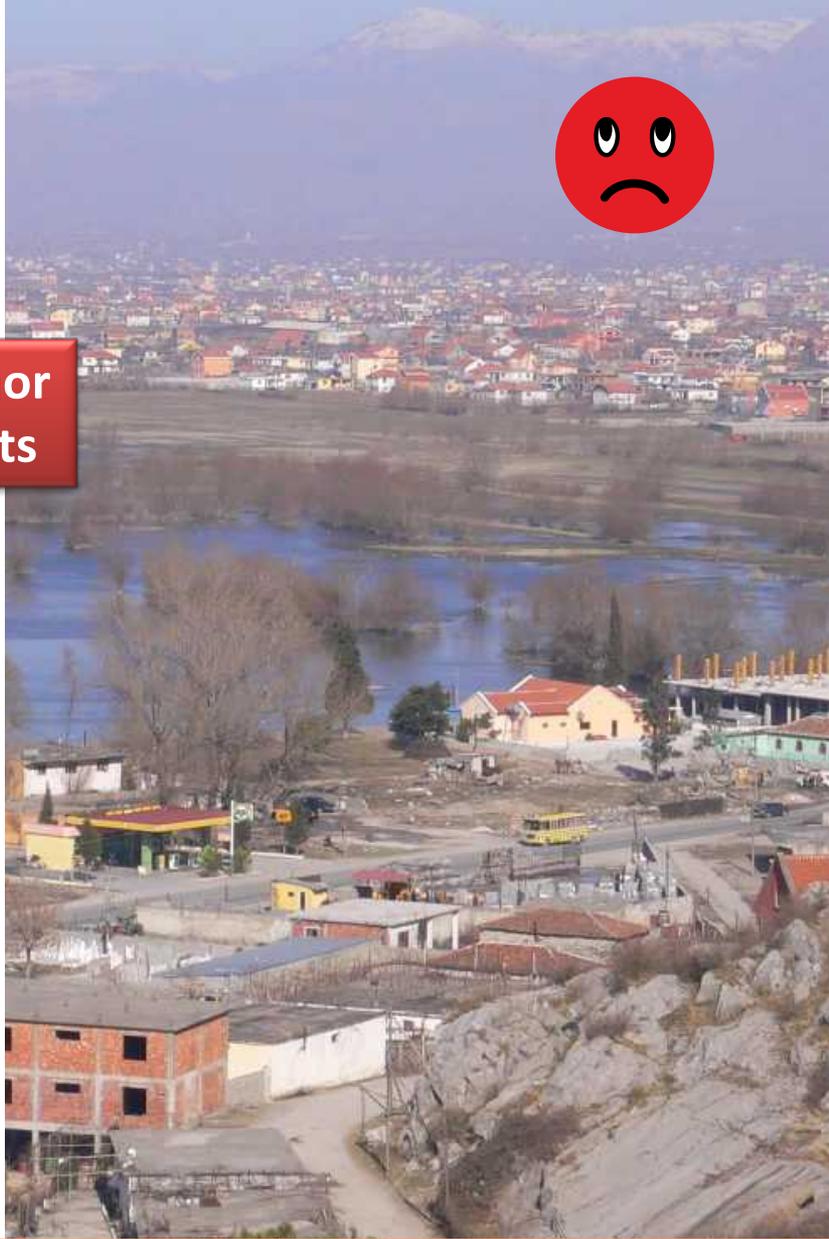
2/3 of all natural wetlands ...  
... *were lost since 1900*

**loss of wetland services:**

freshwater wetlands	2,700,000,000,000 USD/year
tidal marshes and mangroves	7,200,000,000,000 USD/year
coral reefs	11,900,000,000,000 USD/year



**major facts**



**global alert:**

since 1970 - 76% of all freshwater species populations are declining

but wetlands can be restored ...

*... new wetland ecosystems be created*

*... and degraded wetlands rehabilitated*



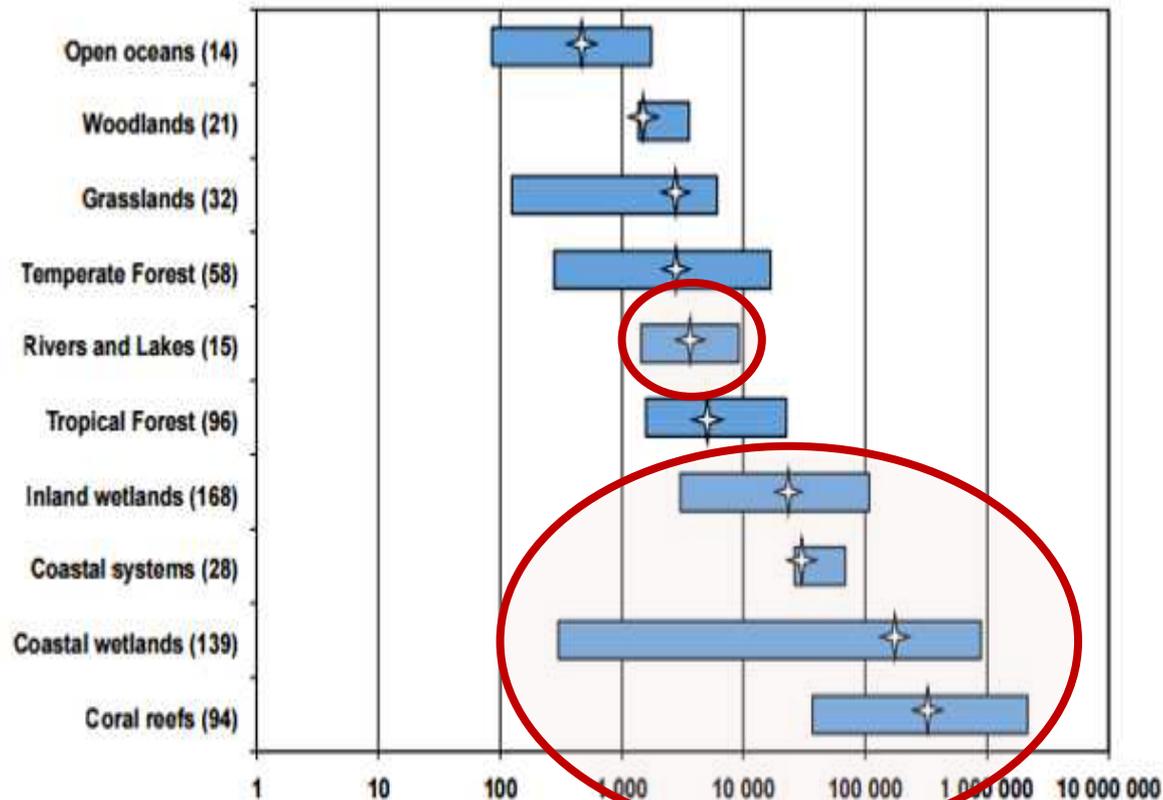
major  
facts

... methods and know-how exist ...



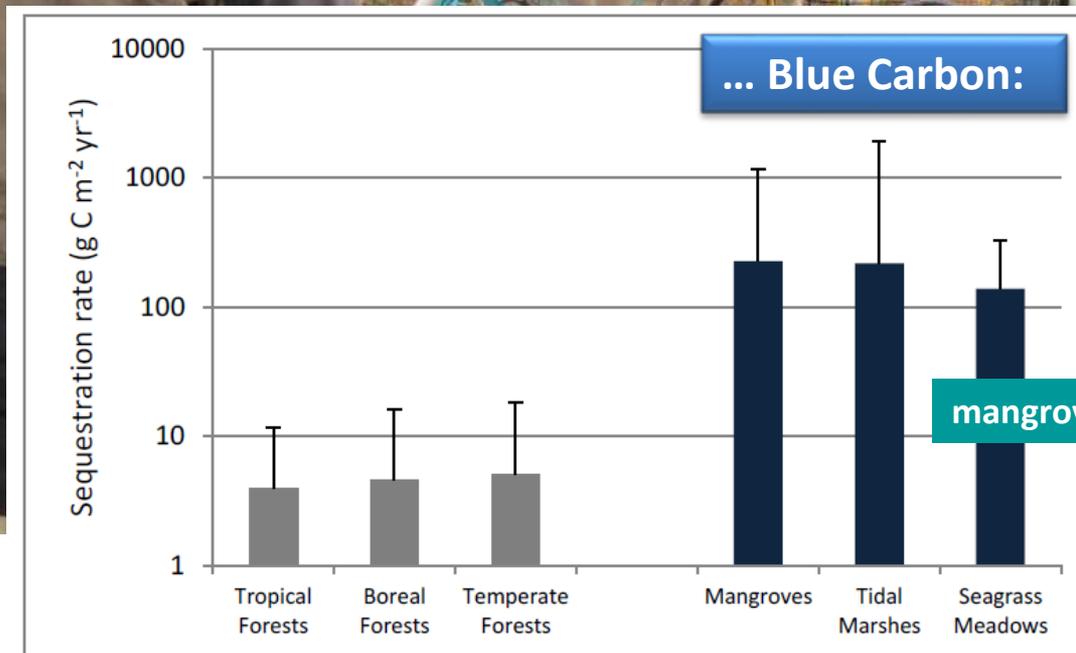
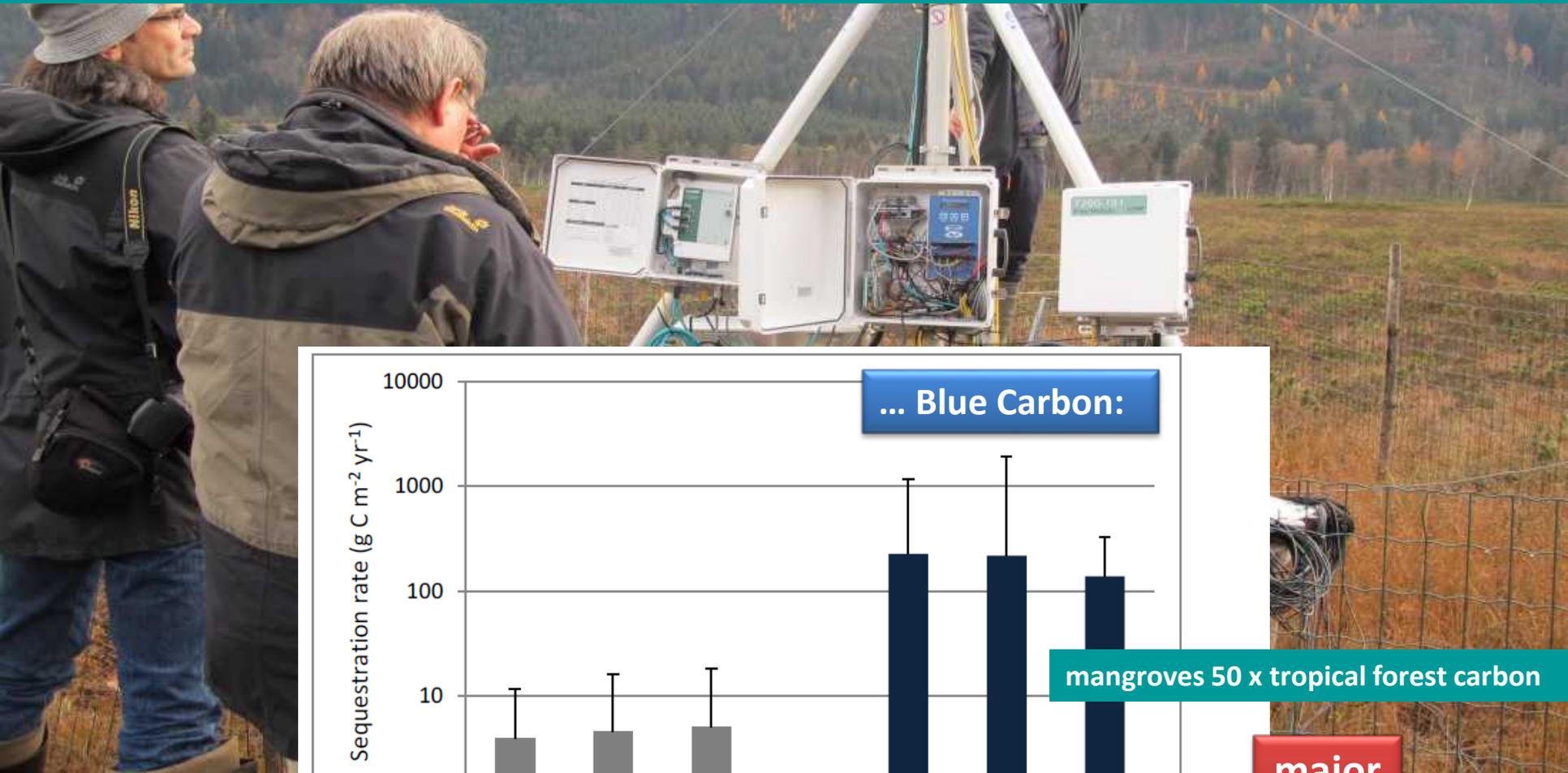
# the range of values of ecosystem services provided by different habitat types

major facts



Note: Figure 2.2 shows range and average of total monetary value of the bundle of ecosystem services per biome. The total number of published value estimates per biome is indicated in brackets; the average value of the value range is indicated as a star sign.  
Source: de Groot et al. (2012) building on TEEB (2010).

# promoting the value of wetlands carbon storage: peatlands and ...



mangroves 50 x tropical forest carbon

major facts

Figure 1. Annual mean carbon sequestration rates for blue carbon habitats per unit area compared to terrestrial forest habitats (error bars indicate maximum rates of accumulation). The annual sequestration rate of a given ecosystem is the quantity of CO<sub>2</sub> removed from the atmosphere and/or ocean and trapped in natural habitats (Modified from McLeod et al. 2011).

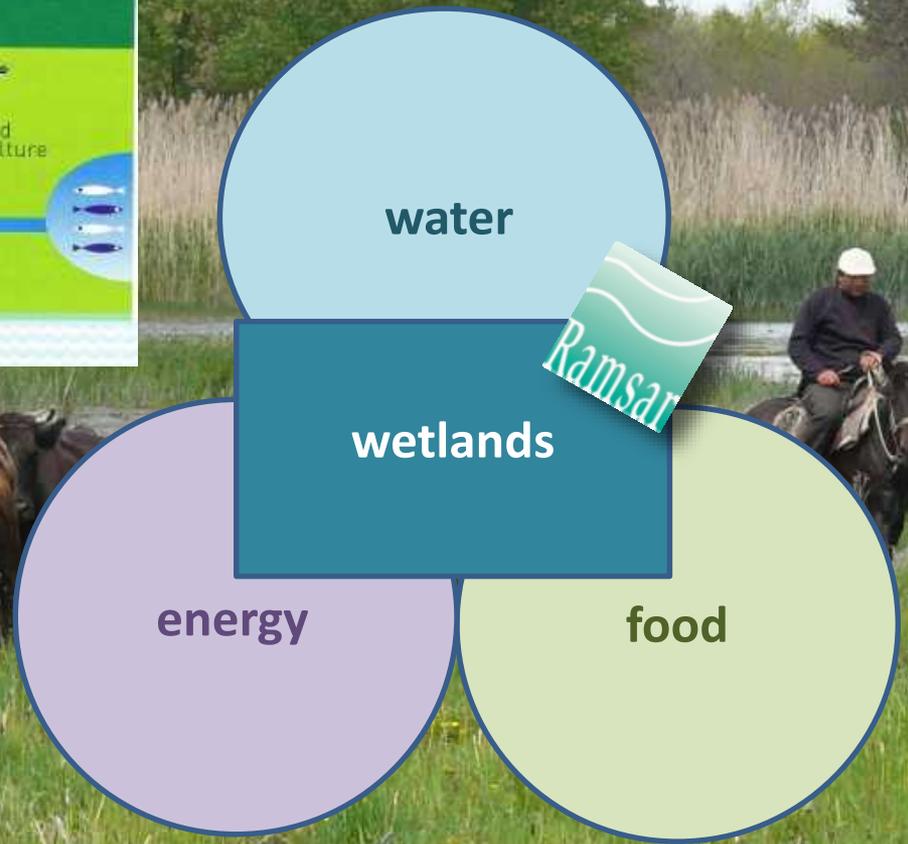
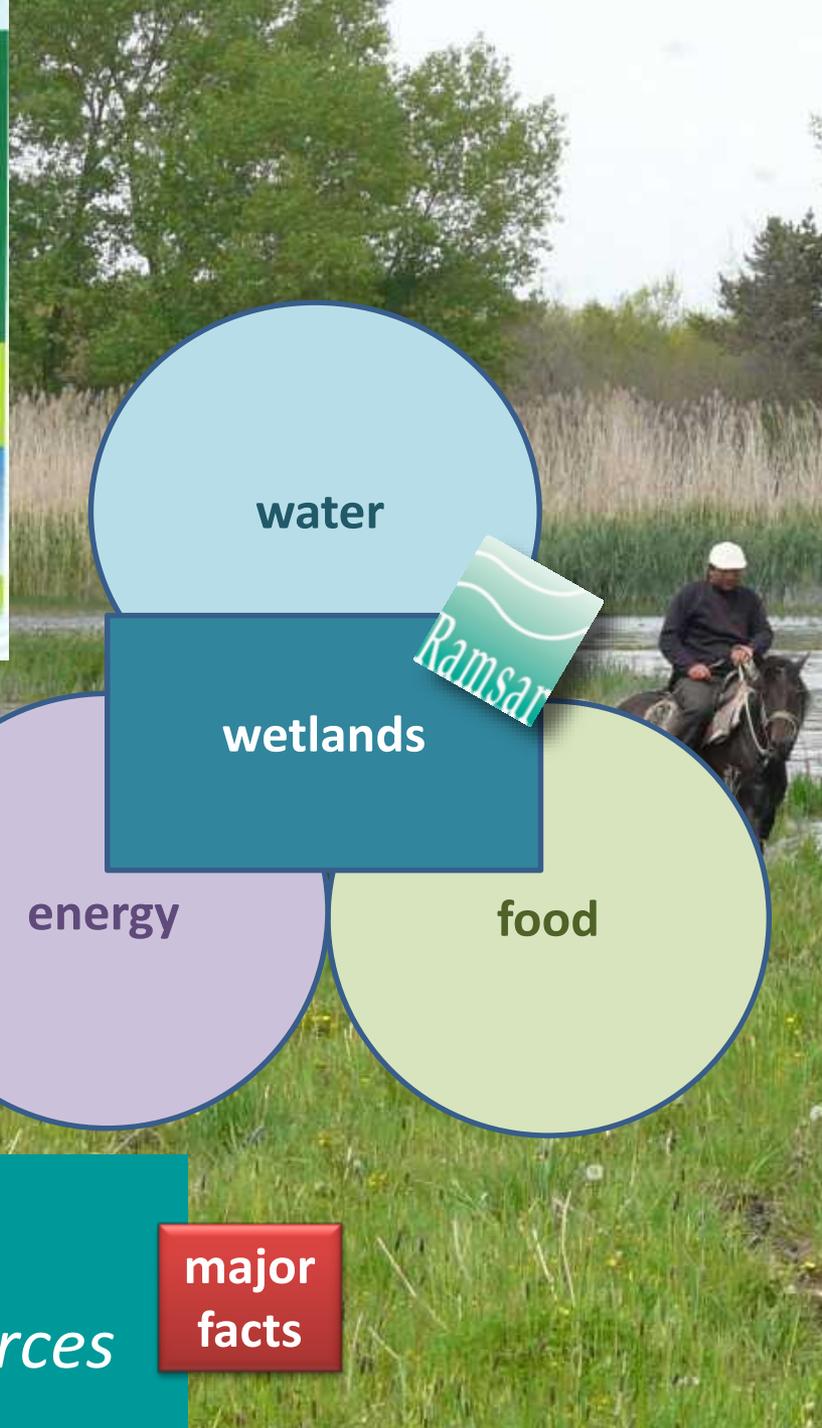


*landscapes we dream of  
where we would like to spend outdoor activities  
what we like best  
where we would like to live*



**major  
facts**

**tourism 266 million jobs**



major facts

*wetlands – provide the nexus for sustainable use of natural resources*

*integrating* values of wetland products and services  
+ **estimating intrinsic, non-market values**



TEEB approach needed

overcome the « all for free » mentality > *policy changes*  
identify our ecosystem links > *consumer choices*  
make use of ecosystem services > *business opportunities*

# The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-24

Vision: “Wetlands are conserved, wisely used, restored and their benefits are recognized and valued by all.”

The Fourth Ramsar Strategic plan lays out a new vision under the Convention mission, four overall goals and 19 specific targets which are designed to support the efforts of Parties, partners and other stakeholders in preventing, stopping and reversing the global decline of wetlands.



**The Ramsar Mission:**  
Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.



[www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org)

## Strategic Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation

Human impacts on wetlands are growing. Influencing the drivers of wetland degradation and loss and the integration of the role of wetland values (monetary and non-monetary) into planning and decision making requires the development of a methodology that enables wetland resources and ecosystem benefits to be assessed so that the multiple environmental functions and benefits are understood widely within societies. Contracting Parties, the Secretariat, Regional Initiatives and IOPs will enhance their engagement with relevant stakeholders in order to diminish threats, influence trends, restore wetlands and recommend good practices.

- 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.
- 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).
- 3. The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.
- 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.

## Strategic Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands

The wise use of all wetlands requires that Parties ensure they are addressing wetlands beyond those currently included in the Ramsar Site network. This work may occur at the national, sub-national, regional, and transboundary levels, including at basin level. Mainstreaming recognition of ecosystem functions, services and benefits into a wide range of sectors and with a broad array of actors will help ensure the success of this effort.

- 5. National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed, updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.
- 6. 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.
- 7. The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant to 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 peoples and local communities at all relevant levels.
- 8. Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely disseminated, documented and disseminated.
- 9. Rehabilitation 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.
- 10. 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.

## Strategic Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network

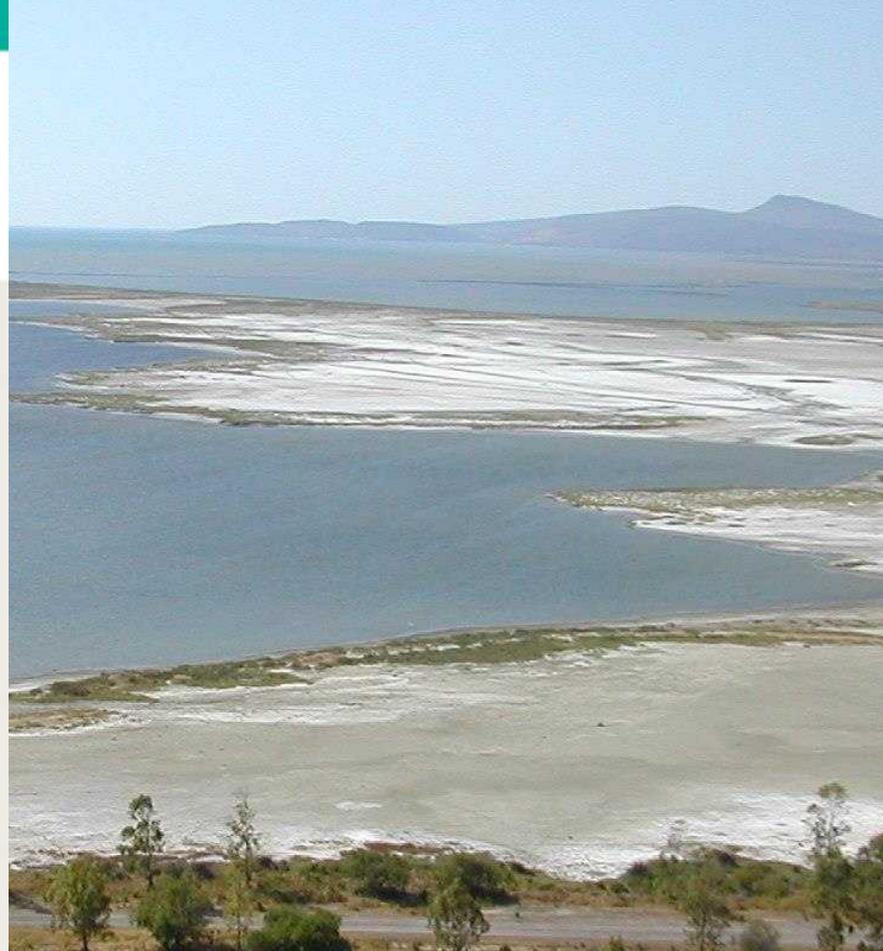
Ramsar Sites constitute the largest network of officially recognized internationally important wetland areas in the world. This network constitutes the backbone of a larger network of wetlands. Parties must commit themselves to efforts to protect and effectively manage the existing Ramsar Sites and enable the full and effective participation of stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as to expanding the reach of the Convention by continuously seeking to add more sites and areas of wetlands recognized under the Convention.

- 11. The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.
- 12. There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network, in particular under-represented types of wetlands including in under-represented ecosystems and Transboundary Sites.
- 13. Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.

## Operational Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation

It will be vital for the survival of wetlands and the success of the Convention for Parties to enhance implementation of the Strategic Plan. Various approaches will help strengthen the implementation of the Strategic Goals, and ultimately of the Convention itself. They involve critical efforts to be undertaken by Contracting Parties themselves, and in partnership with other Parties and other entities, in particular with regard to scientific and technical advice and guidance, resource mobilization, public awareness, visibility and capacity building. The Ramsar Secretariat will also play a vital role in raising awareness and visibility of the Convention, as well as mobilizing resources to support enhanced implementation.

- 14. Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.
- 15. Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are established and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.
- 16. Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.
- 17. Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available.
- 18. International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.
- 19. Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.



4 strategic goals:

addressing the drivers of wetlands loss and degradation

effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Sites network

wisely using all wetlands

enhancing implementation

# wetland conservation and restoration contribute to the Agenda 2030 and its objectives

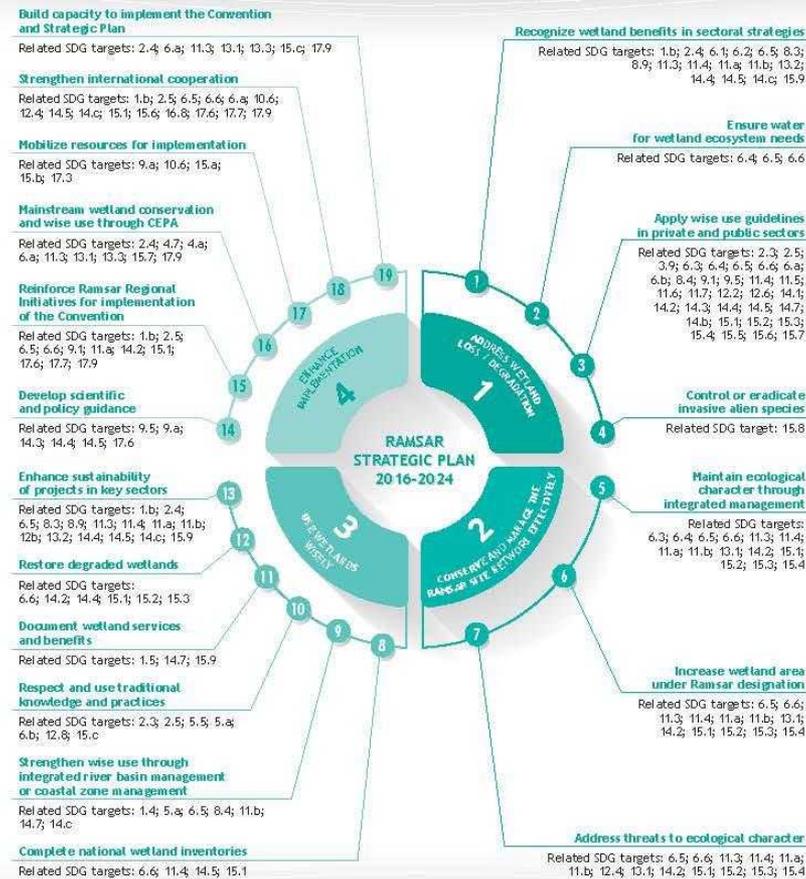
90% natural hazards water-related



# How the Ramsar Strategic Plan contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 includes four goals and 19 targets. Implementing each of these will also contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets. Each Ramsar target is shown with the SDG targets to which it contributes, and the text of each SDG target is summarized on the facing page. The SDGs are listed in full at the UN's Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>).



## The Sustainable Development Goals and Targets

### GOAL 1. END POVERTY

- 1.4 Ensure that all men and women have equal rights
- 1.5 Build the resilience of the poor and reduce their vulnerability to climate-related extreme events
- 1.b Invest in poverty eradication

### GOAL 2. END HUNGER AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- 2.3 Double the agricultural productivity of small-scale food producers
- 2.4 Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices
- 2.5 Promote benefit sharing of the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge

### GOAL 3. ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES

- 3.9 Reduce deaths and illnesses from air, water and soil pollution

### GOAL 4. ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE EDUCATION

- 4.7 Ensure that all learners acquire knowledge and skills for sustainable development
- 4.a Build education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive

### GOAL 5. EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

- 5.5 Ensure women's full participation and equal opportunities for leadership
- 5.a Give women equal rights to economic and land resources

### GOAL 6. ENSURE WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

- 6.1 Achieve access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2 Achieve access to sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation
- 6.3 Improve water quality by reducing pollution and increasing recycling
- 6.4 Increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater
- 6.5 Implement integrated water resources management, including through transboundary cooperation
- 6.6 Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- 6.a Expand international cooperation and capacity-building to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities
- 6.b Support participation of local communities in water and sanitation management

### GOAL 8. PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

- 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities
- 8.4 Improve resource efficiency in consumption and production and decouple economic growth from environmental degradation
- 8.9 Promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

### GOAL 9. BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

- 9.1 Develop infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being
- 9.5 Enhance scientific research and upgrade industrial sectors
- 9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure in developing countries

### GOAL 10. REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

- 10.6 Ensure enhanced representation for developing countries in global decision-making

### GOAL 11. MAKE CITIES INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

- 11.3 Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization
- 11.4 Protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- 11.5 Reduce deaths and people affected by disasters, including water-related disasters
- 11.6 Reduce adverse per capita environmental impact of cities
- 11.7 Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces

- 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas
- 11.b Increase cities' implementing inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters

### GOAL 12. ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

- 12.2 Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- 12.4 Achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and reduce their release to air, water and soil
- 12.6 Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices
- 12.8 Ensure that people everywhere have lifestyles in harmony with nature
- 12.b Develop sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

### GOAL 13. COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

- 13.1 Strengthen resilience to natural disasters in all countries
- 13.2 Integrate climate change into policies, strategies and planning
- 13.3 Improve human and institutional capacity on climate change

### GOAL 14. CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES

- 14.1 Reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities
- 14.2 Manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts
- 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification
- 14.4 Regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- 14.5 Conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas
- 14.7 Increase the economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources
- 14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
- 14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans by implementing international law

### GOAL 15. PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

- 15.1 Ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands
- 15.2 Promote sustainable management of all types of forests
- 15.3 Combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil
- 15.4 Conserve mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity
- 15.5 Reduce the degradation of natural habitats and halt the loss of biodiversity
- 15.6 Promote sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources
- 15.7 End poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna
- 15.8 Reduce impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems
- 15.9 Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning
- 15.a Mobilize financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
- 15.b Mobilize significant resources to finance sustainable forest management

### GOAL 16. PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

- 16.8 Broaden the participation of developing countries in global governance

### GOAL 17. STRENGTHEN MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

- 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries
- 17.6 Enhance international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation
- 17.7 Promote diffusion of environmentally sound technologies
- 17.9 Enhance international support for capacity-building in developing countries

**2** ZERO HUNGER



**ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that maintain ecosystems**



*rice and fish production in wetlands, seasonal farming on river floodplains, adapted agricultural management with reduced water demand*

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



**sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources**



*paludiculture and other forms of agriculture in wetlands avoid GHG emissions, floods, fires and biodiversity losses*

**rice feeds 3 billion people**

**660 million work in fishing and aquaculture**

**6** CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



increase water-use efficiency, ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater through IWRM and transboundary cooperation  
protect and restore water-related ecosystems



*wetlands connect the ecosystems in the landscape that store and regulate water flows and ensure supplies of good quality freshwater, as long as they are safeguarded, restored and well managed*

most freshwater is used for human consumption



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



**reduce losses caused by water-related disasters, protect the poor and people in vulnerable situations, provide healthy living conditions in urban areas**

**Ramsar**

***wetlands protect cities against floods, dissipate coastal wave power, retain floodwaters, supply freshwater, improve the local climate and are areas for recreation, education and sports***



**13** CLIMATE ACTION

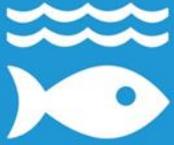


**strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and disasters**



*wetlands help reducing peak flood flows, store excessive precipitation, recharge groundwater and serve as buffer against storms and saltwater intrusion, peatlands are the largest terrestrial carbon store*

14 LIFE  
BELOW WATER



sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems for healthy and productive oceans

Ramsar

*estuaries, mangroves, lagoons, coral reefs and kelp forests serve as nurseries and support the coastal tourism industry, but face dramatic development pressures*



40% of all species are wetland-related

15 LIFE ON LAND



conserve, restore and use wisely terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil



*effective wetland ecosystem management and the rehabilitation of lost ecosystem services will increase the well-being and socio-economic development of local societies*

# implement SDGs at national level



**effective management of Ramsar Sites = models of SD**

**integrate wetlands in national action plans for SDGs + climate change (NDCs)**

**funding opportunities: Green Climate Fund, private sector**

**raise visibility and awareness**



satellite data to monitor and assess  
the status of wetlands at global scale

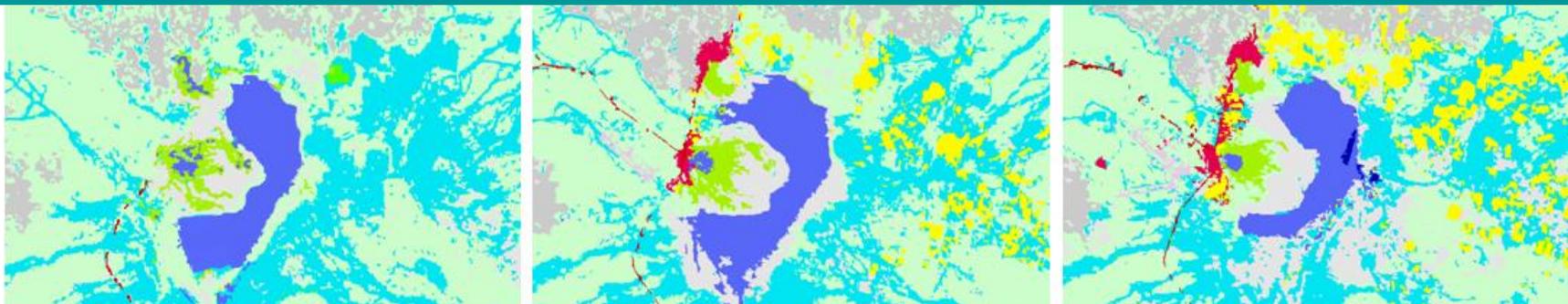
to measure the indexes for SDGs 6.6.1 and 14.2



*towards a* **Global Wetland Observation System GWOS ...**



*SDG indicator 6.6.1: annual changes in the wetland extent/country*



**Agenda 2030:  
public and private stakeholders to undertake actions  
to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals**



**26 Mediterranean countries and  
international organisations  
have translated the SDGs  
into their Agenda 2030:**

**A Framework for Action 2016-2030**



# key areas of MedWet work 2016-2020

- national wetland inventories
- effective management of all Ramsar Sites
- wetland integration in river management
- evaluation of ecosystem services (climate change)
- communicating effectively wetland values
- wetland as part of development and land-use planning



# wetland visitor centres

***Key places for:***

**learning and understanding**

**adult education**

**exciting and emotional experiences**

**coordinate education and awareness programmes between centres  
(at national, regional and international level)**



convey connections between issues  
disseminate ideas  
gain public support





*visitors discover  
unimagined worlds ...*



# Ramsar Sites – *the jewels in the crown*

Ramsar



*> a quality label for excellent environment management*



# a new online information tool and monitoring database:



## Ramsar Sites Information Service

2,279 Sites covering 220,453,050 ha

Log in | EN FR ES

ABOUT EXPLORE SITES MANAGE MY SITES

Search for a Ramsar Site ?

Search found **1088 Ramsar Sites** covering **27,815,664 ha** | Region/country: Europe

Retain current filters

Map

List

Stats

Exports

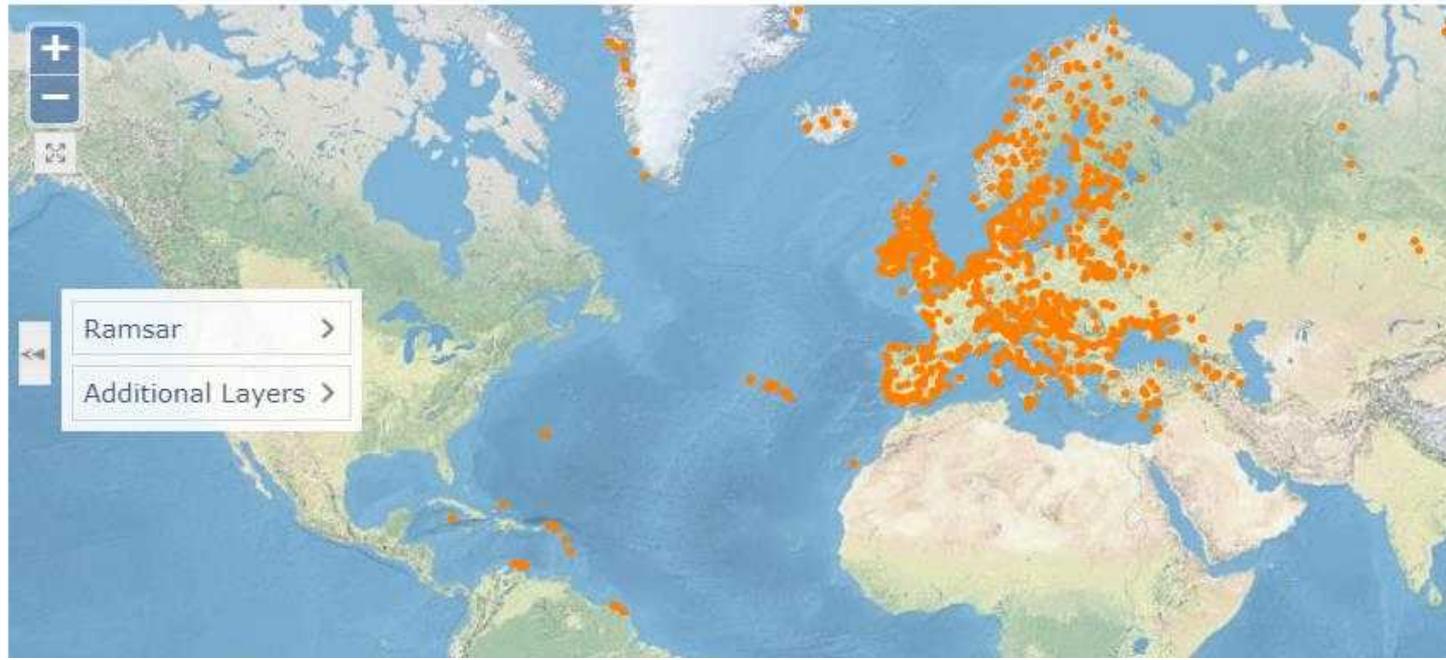
Explore by filters

Region/country ▾

- Africa (386)
- Asia (318)
- ▣ Europe
  - Albania (4)
  - Andorra (3)
  - Armenia (3)
  - Austria (23)
  - Azerbaijan (2)

Ramsar criteria >

Designation date >



online database to monitor  
human-induced negative changes of the ecological character:



## Ramsar Sites Information Service

2,279 Sites covering 220,453,050 ha

Threatened Site Management

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### Threatened Site Management (article 3.2)

salathe@ramsar.org

RIS 285 - Lake of Seven Islands Nature Reserve (PL)

#### Article 3.2 Information

Article 3.2 status:

Confirmed :  in  (date:)

Opening date:

Closing date:

English Threat Summary:

**2-3 November 2017: MedWet strategic planning workshop**

**22 October 2018: Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com) meeting**



**“wetlands for a sustainable urban future”**

**2 February 2018  
World Wetlands Day**



**Ramsar COP13 in Dubai - UAE  
21-29 October 2018**