



Advancing the Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands for Sustainable Development

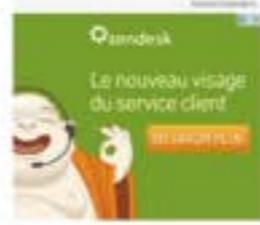
10 May 2019

EAAFP 10th Anniversary / 2019 World Migratory Bird Day

the guardian

Climate change warnings for coral reef may have come to pass, scientists say

As coral bleaching threat is raised for Great Barrier Reef, experts say events show that slow projections for reefs under global warming were not alarmist


The Guardian

THEGUARDIAN.COM

Flooding from sea level rise threatens over 300,000 US coastal homes – study

BBC NEWS

Australia's Great Barrier Reef hit by 'worst' bleaching

22 March 2015



The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest living structure and can be seen from space.

Evidence that Australia's Great Barrier Reef is experiencing its worst coral bleaching on record has renewed calls for the UN to list it as "in-danger".

The National Coral Bleaching Taxonomy says 95% of reefs from Cairns to Portes New Guinea are now severely bleached.

BBC NEWS

Zimbabwe hit by deadly floods after drought

11 March 2017



Zimbabweans have coped with both drought and flooding in the space of a few months.

Zimbabwe has appealed for \$100m (£80m) to help those hit by floods that have killed 245 people since December.

Officials say floods, which follow a crippling drought, have swept through villages, destroying roads, crops and livestock in the south of the country.

Why 'hydro-politics' will shape the 21st Century



It's been called the 'next oil'. In the coming decades, the supply of water has the potential to influence geopolitics, diplomacy and even conflict.

News Programmes Opinion Investigations videos

ETHIOPIA 4 APRIL 2015

Drought leaves 6 million Ethiopian children hungry

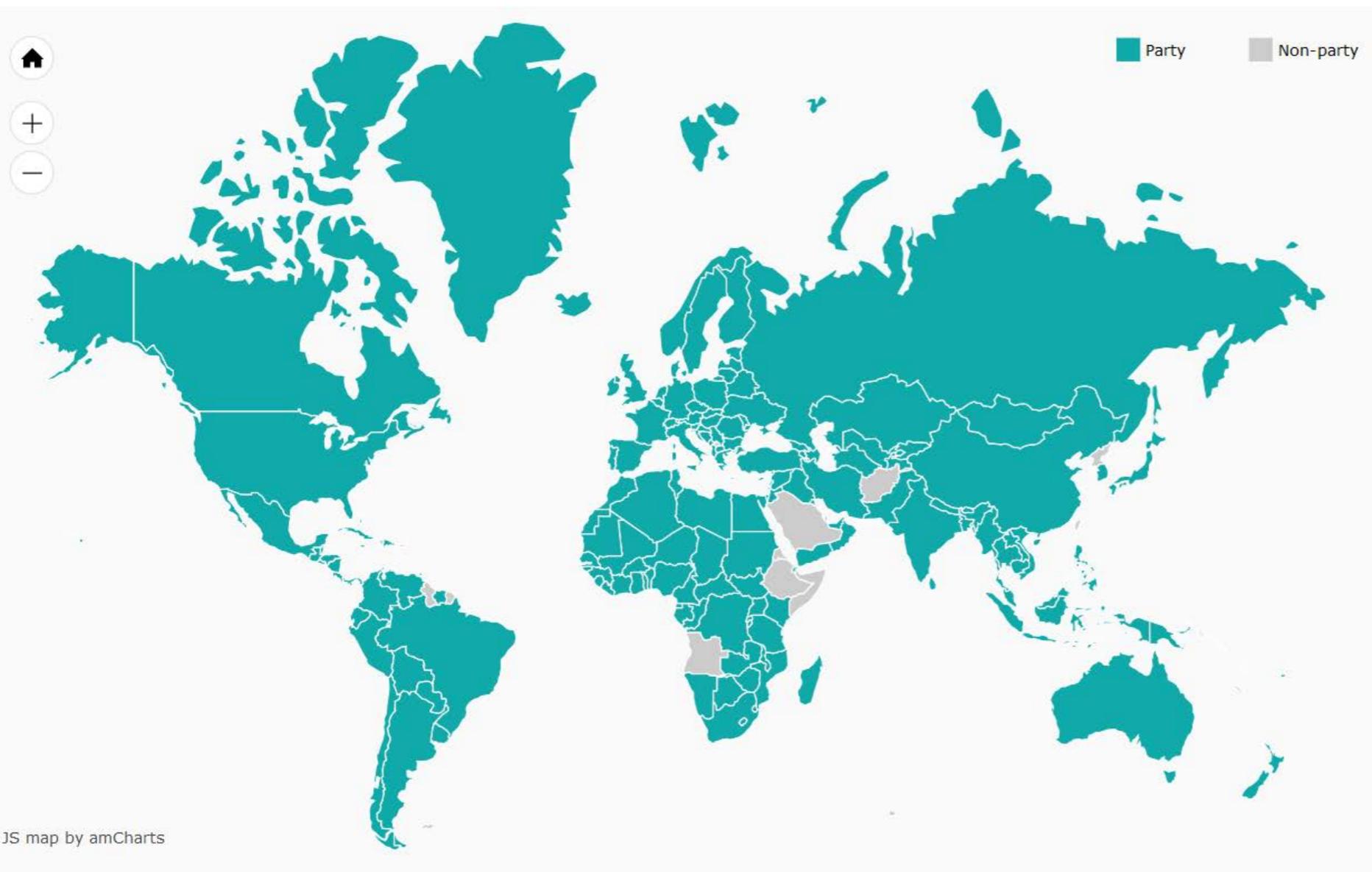
Charity says millions of children face critical food shortages and waterborne disease as crisis intensifies.



Ethiopia has urged the world to donate more food aid as the drought intensifies (Kate Degraw/Save the Children)

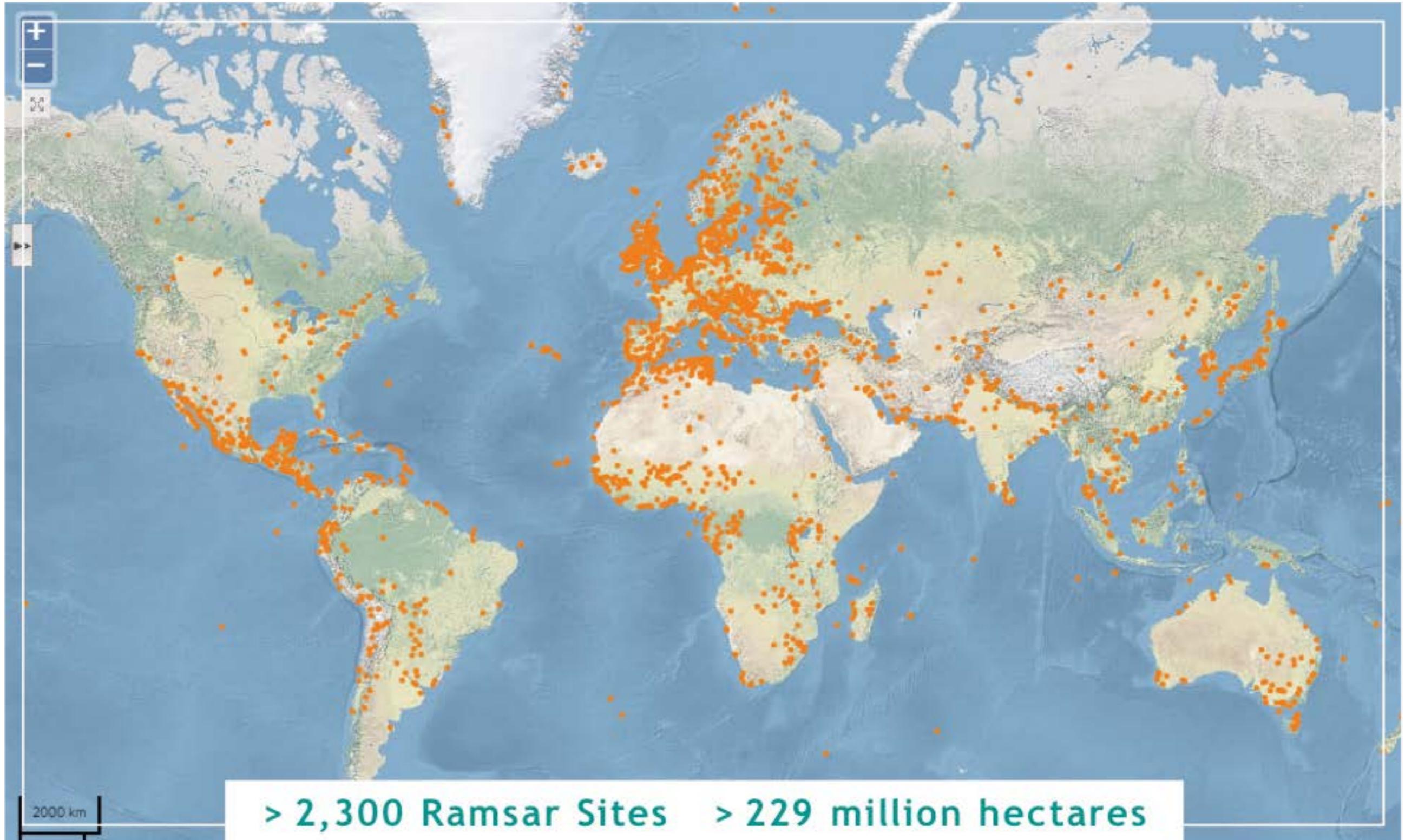
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

- Intergovernmental treaty on wetlands (1971)
 - 170 Parties (map of member countries)
 - Provides the framework for the conservation and wise use
 - First modern global environmental agreement



- Members commit to:
 - Wise use of all their wetlands
 - Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar List”)
 - Cooperate on transboundary wetland systems and shared species

Wetlands of International Importance 'Ramsar Sites'



4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024

GOAL 1

Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation

1. Recognizing wetland benefits in sectoral strategies
2. Ensuring water for wetland ecosystem needs
3. Applying wise use guidelines in private and public sectors
4. Controlling or eradicating invasive alien species

GOAL 2

Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network

5. Maintaining ecological character through integrated management
6. Increasing wetland area under Ramsar designation
7. Addressing threats to ecological character

GOAL 3

Wisely Using All Wetlands

8. Completing national wetland inventories
9. Strengthening wise use through integrated river basin management or coastal zone management
10. Respecting and using traditional knowledge and practices
11. Documenting wetland services and benefits
12. Restoring degraded wetlands
13. Enhancing sustainability of projects in key sectors

GOAL 4

Enhancing Implementation

14. Developing scientific and policy guidance
15. Reinforcing Ramsar Regional Initiatives for implementation of the Convention
16. Mainstreaming wetland conservation and wise use through CEPA
17. Mobilizing resources for implementation
18. Strengthening international cooperation
19. Building capacity to implement the Convention and Strategic Plan

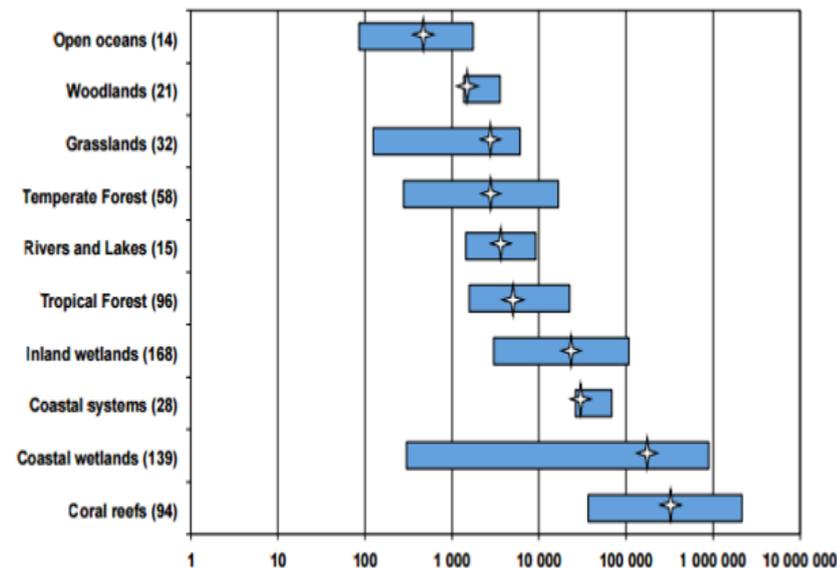




Impacts highlights

- Wide reach and cooperation: international treaty - 170 Parties, 19 Regional Initiatives
- 6 International Organization Partners (IUCN, WWF, WI, BI, WWT, IWMI)
- Impact on the ground: + 2,200 sites of international importance, national wetland policies (site managers, administrative authorities, ---- value of international designation)
- Platform of technical and scientific experts: STRP - state of the art policy and technical guidance
- Campaigns: World Wetlands Day
- Sustainable development at the heart : conservation, wise use, livelihoods, cities, water, mitigation, adaptation, DRR

Wetlands have tremendous value



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).

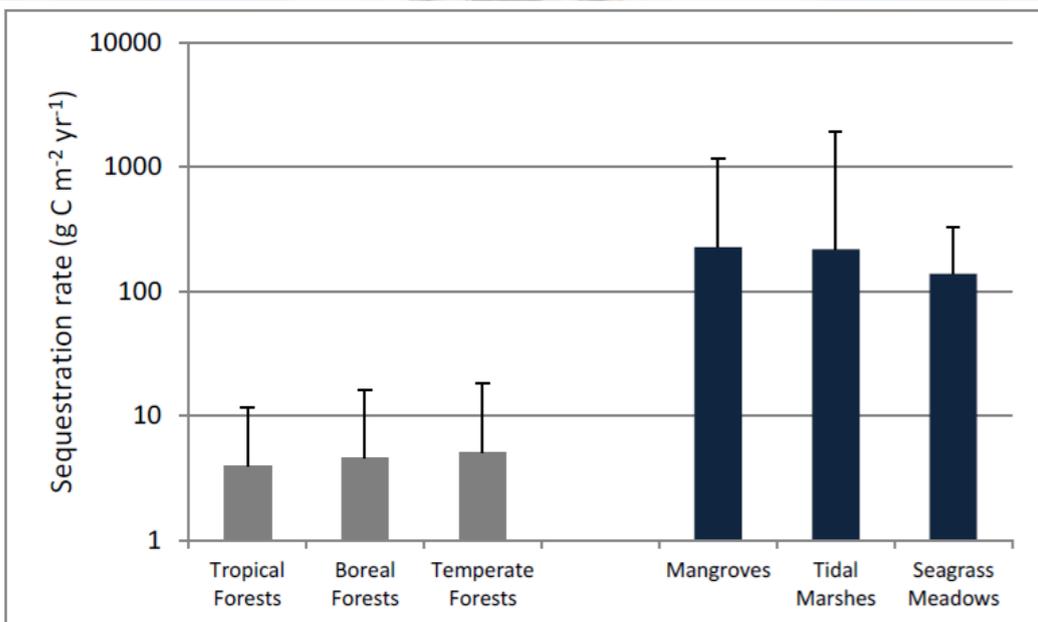
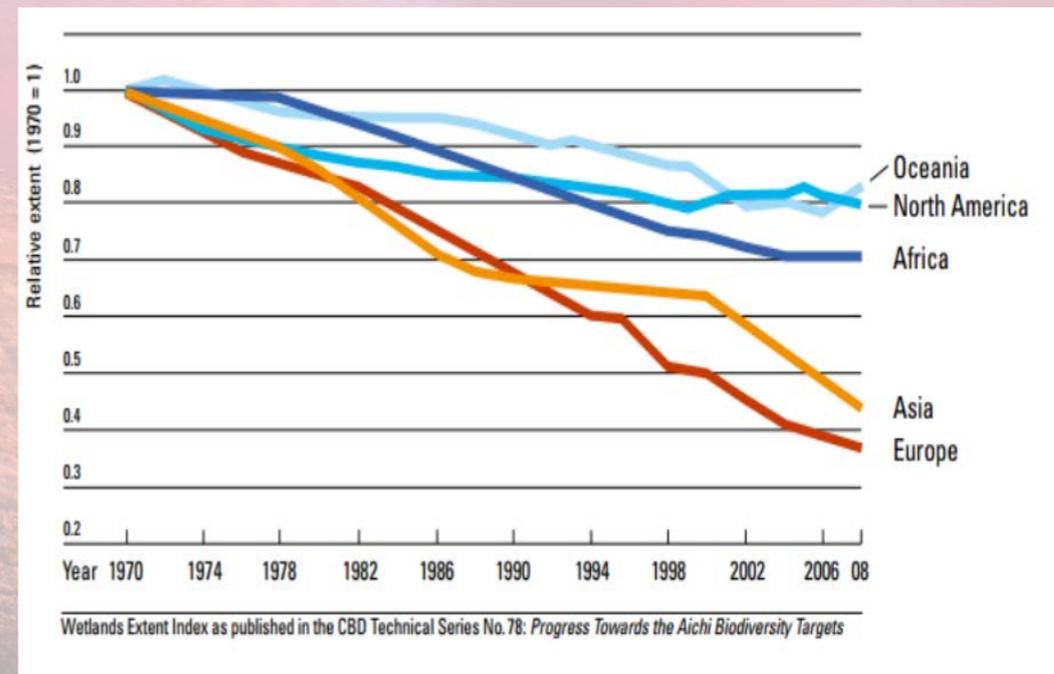


Figure 1. Annual mean carbon sequestration rates for blue carbon habitats per unit area compared to terrestrial forest habitats (error bars indicate maximum rates of accumulation). The annual sequestration rate of a given ecosystem is the quantity of CO₂ removed from the atmosphere and/or ocean and trapped in natural habitats (Modified from McLeod et al. 2011).

- ➔ Almost all of the world's freshwater is drawn from wetlands
- ➔ Wetlands are the world's largest carbon store
- ➔ Wetlands purify and filter harmful waste from water
- ➔ Our food supply depends on wetlands
- ➔ Extreme climatic events are mitigated by wetlands
- ➔ Wetlands provide jobs and sustainable livelihoods
- ➔ Almost half of all animal species live and breed in wetlands

Wetlands are being lost at an alarming rate

- ! 87% of Wetlands have been lost since 1700 AD
- ! 35% of wetlands lost since 1970
- ! Wetlands are being lost at a rate of 3 times faster than tropical forests
- ! 4,875 wetland-dependant species are threatened with extinction
- ! Globally over 80% of wastewater is released into wetlands





The challenge -
wetlands are equated with wasteland



Wetlands are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The Ramsar Convention works in partnership with other MEAs to support governments in achieving the SDGs.

SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Effective management of transboundary wetlands contributes to peace and security.

SDG 15 – LIFE ON LAND

40% of all the world's species live and breed in wetlands.

SDG 14 – LIFE BELOW WATER

Healthy and productive oceans rely on well functioning coastal and marine wetlands.

SDG 13 – CLIMATE ACTION

Peatlands cover only 3% of global land but store twice as much carbon as the entire world's forest biomass.

SDG 12 – RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

Wetland areas properly managed can sustainably support increased demands for water in all sectors.

SDG 11 – SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES

Urban wetlands play a vital role in making cities safe, resilient and sustainable.

SDG 10 – REDUCED INEQUALITY

Healthy wetlands mitigate the risk to an estimated 5 billion people living with poor access to water by 2050.

SDG 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Healthy wetlands form a natural buffer against the increasing number of natural disasters.

SDG 1 – NO POVERTY

More than a billion people depend on wetlands for a living.

SDG 2 – ZERO HUNGER

Rice, grown in wetland paddies, is the staple diet of 3.5 billion people.

SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH & WELL BEING

Half of international tourists seek relaxation in wetland areas, especially coastal zones.

SDG 4 – QUALITY EDUCATION

Safe water access enhances educational opportunities, especially for girls.

SDG 5 – GENDER EQUALITY

Women play a central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.

SDG 6 – CLEAN WATER & SANITATION

Almost all of the world's consumption of freshwater is drawn either directly or indirectly from wetlands.

SDG 7 – AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY

Sustainable upstream water management can provide affordable and clean energy.

SDG 8 – DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH

Wetlands sustain 266 million jobs in wetland tourism and travel.



Global Risks

Top 5 Risks in Terms of Likelihood

1st: Extreme Weather Events

2nd: Failure of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

3rd: Natural Disasters

4th: Data Fraud and Theft

5th : Cyber-attacks

Top 5 Risks in Terms of Impact

1st: Weapons and mass destruction

2nd: Failure of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

3rd: Extreme Weather Events

4th: Water crisis

5th: Natural disasters

Source: World Economic Forum, Global Risks Reports (2019)

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a lush, green forest. The water is a vibrant greenish-yellow color, and the surrounding trees are a deep, dense green. A small, narrow boat is visible on the river, moving towards the bottom right. The boat has a thatched roof and some equipment on board. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Taking action to conserve
and wisely use wetlands for
sustainable development

Taking actions

Promote the multiple values of wetlands



Ensure wetland conservation is at the center of mainstream development



Foster implementation on the ground of wise use practices



Ramsar Convention= platform for SD

13th Meeting of the Conference of
the Contracting Parties (CoP13)
21-29 October 2018, Dubai

COP13 Theme:
Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future

Release of the Global Wetland Outlook: *State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People* + technical guidance

Strengthened policy links + implementation -
SDGs, climate change (peatlands, blue
carbon), sustainable cities, gender,
regional initiatives

Visibility and awareness raising of
the value of wetlands



Implementation of the Convention

Global Wetlands Outlook

Inaugural report on state of the
world's wetlands

•

Report addresses status and
trends, drivers of loss and
required actions

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Report identifies and gives
evidence of wetlands' values

•

Informs and guides Contracting
Parties and partners in moving
the wetlands' agenda forward

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Key messages:

*Wetlands are the world's most
valuable ecosystem*

*Wetlands are being lost three
times faster than forests*

GLOBAL WETLAND OUTLOOK

State of the world's
wetlands and their
services to people 2018



Promoting implementation and integration in SDGs at national level

- Effective management of Ramsar Sites: models of SD
 - National legislation and policies
⇒ Integrate wetlands in national action plans for SDGs + climate change (NDCs) + synergies + multiple benefits
- Ecosystem-based management: DRR, adaptation, cities
- Scientific information - Inventories + indicators (SDG 6.6.1 in NRs)
- Engagement of stakeholders
- Funding opportunities - SDGs and PA: GCF, private sector
- Raise visibility and awareness

Increasing the relevance of wetlands to regional and global sustainable development policy objectives

- HLPF (SDG 2020)
- Aichi Targets and Biodiversity post 2020 framework
- Water agenda including 6.6.1
- SDG14 Communities of ocean action and summit
- UNFCCC COP25 and Paris Agreement: wetlands as hotspots for climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Regional Process
- COP14 (50th Anniversary) 2021





www.ramsar.org

Presented by: Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General