



# SWOS

Satellite-based Wetland  
Observation Service



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 642088

## SWOS (The Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service)

Satellite images for peatland monitoring and management

Kathrin Weise, Jena-Optronik GmbH

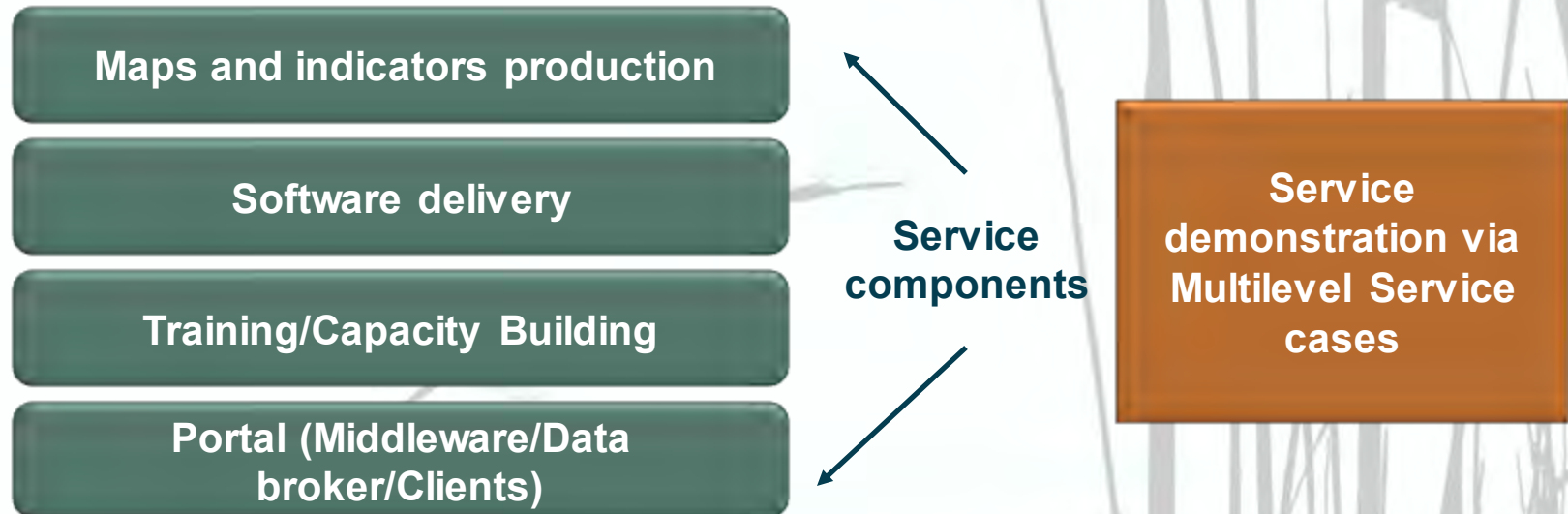


SWOS project team partners - 6 user organisations / NGOs, 3 universities and 4 companies.

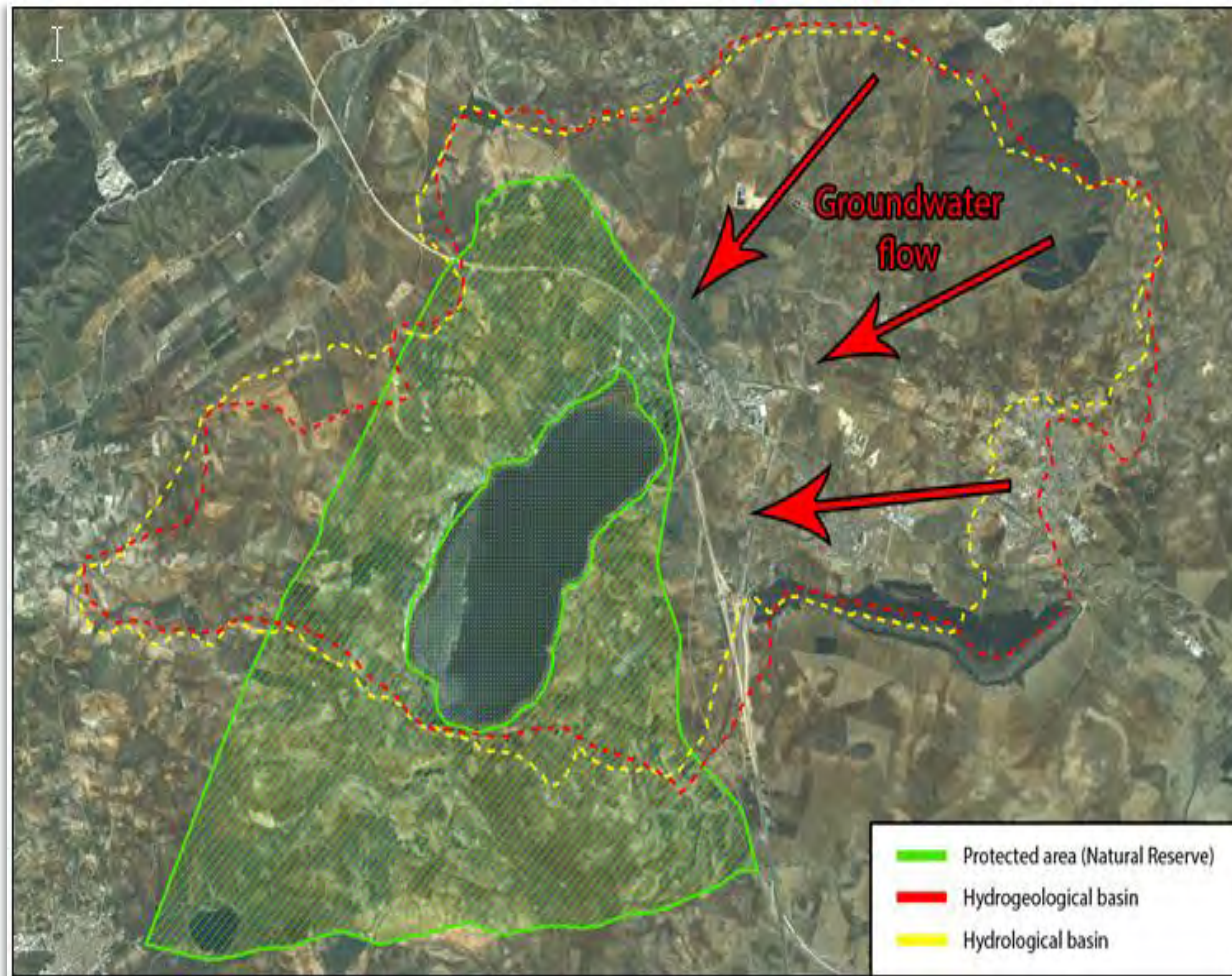
# SWOS is a service



- Promote and underpin the consideration of wetlands in the implementation of key policy areas
- Provide an operational standardized monitoring
- Deliver a service portal as a unique entry point to easily locate, access, process and connect wetland information



# Delimitation of the mapping area



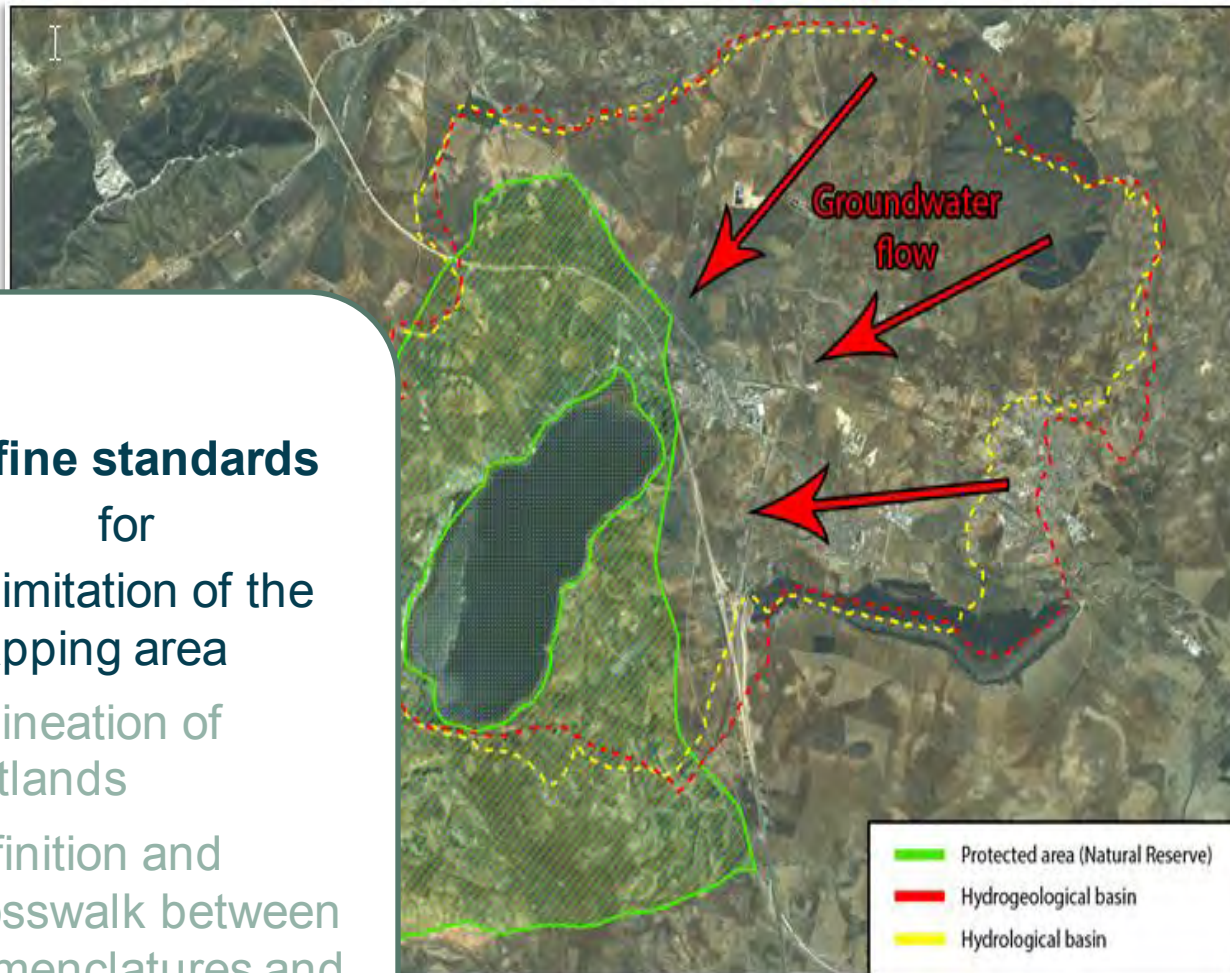
Limits of the natural reserve vs the area of hydrological cycle.



# Delimitation of the mapping area

## Define standards for

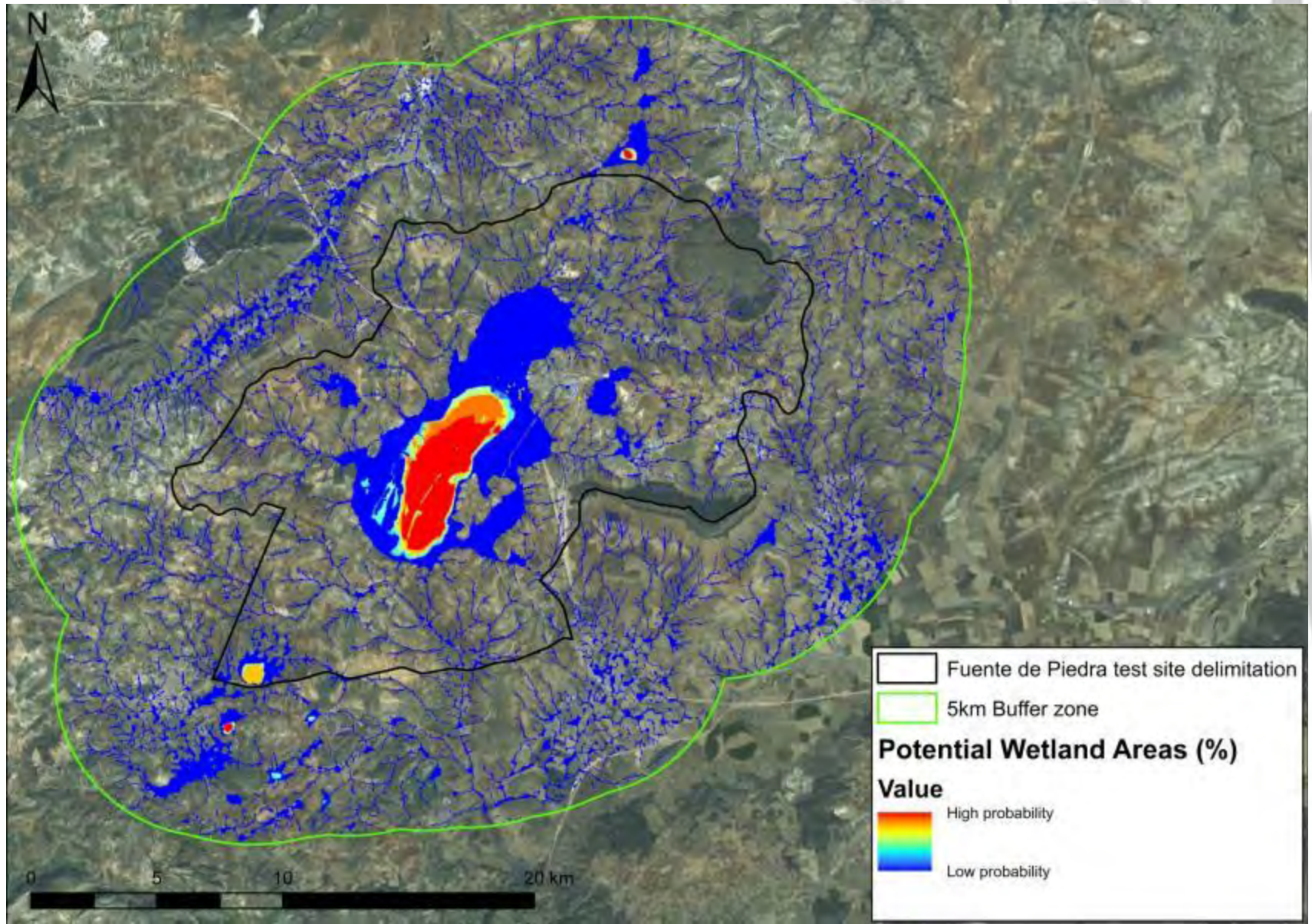
- delimitation of the mapping area
- delineation of wetlands
- definition and crosswalk between nomenclatures and mapping scales



the natural reserve vs the area of hydrological cycle.



# Delineation of Wetlands

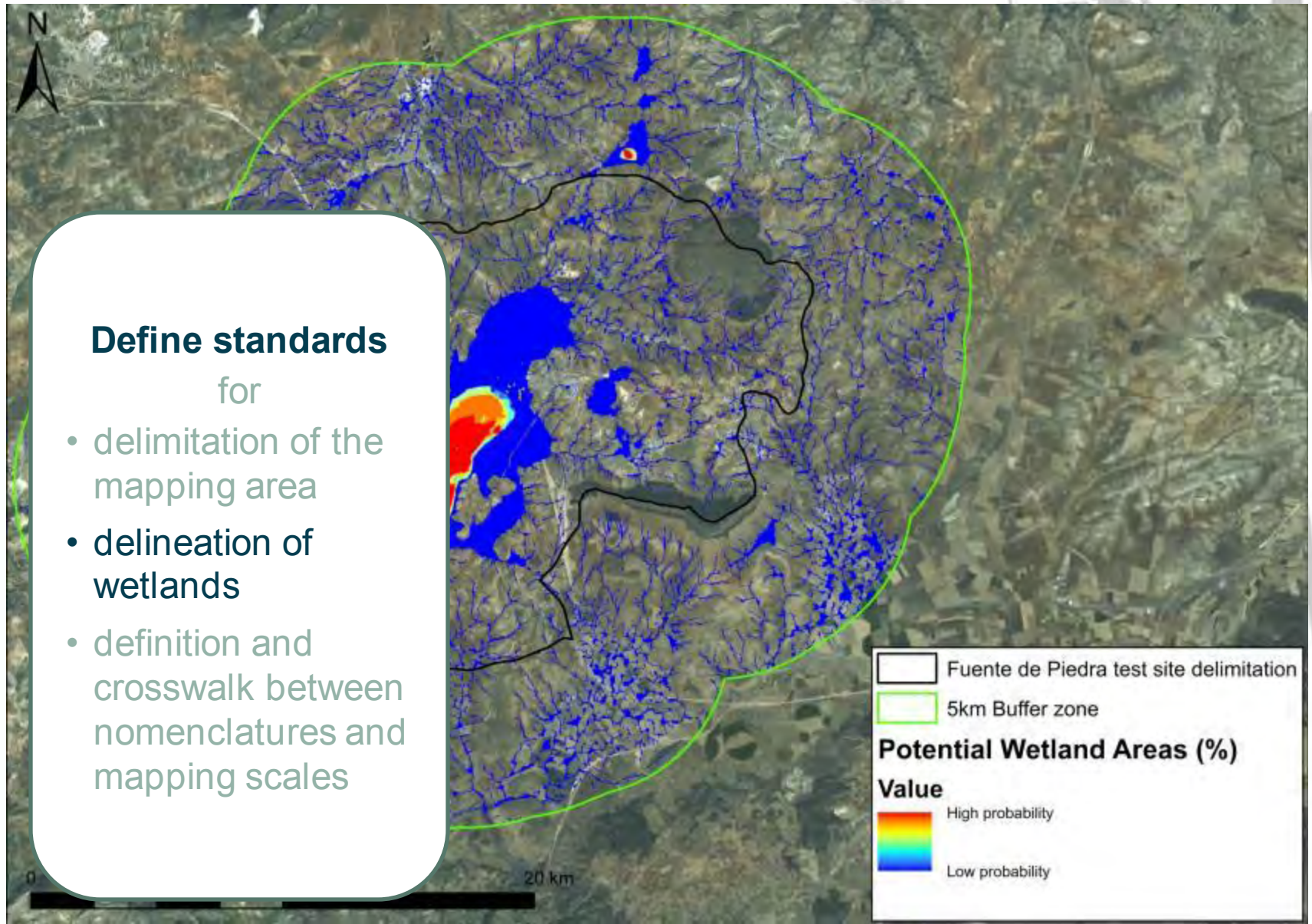




# Delineation of Wetlands

## Define standards for

- delimitation of the mapping area
- delineation of wetlands
- definition and crosswalk between nomenclatures and mapping scales



# Crosswalk between nomenclatures

6.2	Bare soil, rock, perennial snow & ice	feasible	
6.2.1	Beaches, dunes, sands	feasible	
6.2.1.1	Beaches	contextual class	A common case is that a beach is adjacent to a dune. Differentiation/delineation not possible at required high level of certainty
6.2.1.2	Dunes	contextual class	A common case is that a beach is adjacent to a dune. Differentiation/delineation not possible at required high level of certainty
6.2.1.3	River banks	feasible	
6.2.1.4	Littoral zone of water bodies	contextual class	this class is covered by other classes, since the littoral zone can be covered by either grassland, sparsely vegetated, or bare soil/rock
6.2.2	Bare rocks, burnt areas, glaciers and perpetual snow	contextual/temporal class	
6.2.2.1	Bare rocks	feasible	
6.2.2.2	Burnt areas	temporal class	Burned areas can be mapped, but this is rather an additional product. It's a temporal class that depends on the availability of ancillary data
6.2.2.3	Glaciers	ancillary data required	e.g. glaciers can be covered by substrate, dust or ashes
7	Inland wetlands	feasible	The delineation product can assist here
7.1	Inland wetlands	feasible	
7.1.1	Inland wetlands	ancillary data required	Differentiation between wetlands and non-wetlands is possible at required high level of certainty
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7.1.2.2	Inland wetlands	ancillary data required	Differentiation between wetlands and non-wetlands is possible at required high level of certainty
7.2	Peat bogs	ancillary data required	Case dependent if peat bogs are mapped as wetlands or as peat bogs
7.2.1	Peat bogs	ancillary data required	Case dependent if peat bogs are mapped as wetlands or as peat bogs
7.2.1.1	Exploited peat bogs	contextual/temporal class	
7.2.1.2	Unexploited peat bogs	contextual/temporal class	
8	Lagoons	feasible	
8.1	Coastal lagoons	ancillary data required	Confusion with 82 (coastal waters) likely when flooded
8.1.1	Salt marshes	ancillary data required	
8.1.1.1	Salt marshes	ancillary data required	
8.1.1.2	Salt marshes	ancillary data required	
8.1.2	Saline wetlands	functional class	Salines are not always squared features and thus not possible to identify (e.g. Salines in Azraq)
8.1.3	Intertidal wetlands	contextual class	Too detailed since the tidal range must be incorporated
8.2	Coastal waters	feasible	Confusion with 10 (marine other) likely
8.2.1	Coastal lagoons	feasible	Confusion with 10 (marine other) likely
8.2.2	River estuaries and estuarine waters of deltas	feasible	Confusion with 10 (marine other) likely
9	Rivers and Lakes	feasible	
9.1	Water courses	feasible	
9.1.1	Interconnected running water courses	contextual class	Interconnection cannot be fully assessed by remote sensing (e.g. gallery forests that cover parts of a river)
9.1.1.1	Permanent interconnected running water courses	contextual class	Interconnection cannot be fully assessed by remote sensing (e.g. gallery forests that cover parts of a river)
9.1.1.2	Seasonal/intermittent interconnected running water courses	contextual class	Interconnection cannot be fully assessed by remote sensing (e.g. gallery forests that cover parts of a river)
9.1.1.3	Highly modified natural water courses and canals	contextual class	Interconnection cannot be fully assessed by remote sensing (e.g. gallery forests that cover parts of a river)

## For nomenclatures like

- MAES\_SWOS
- Ramsar\_SWOS
- CLC&Ramsar (GW-II)\_SWOS
- LCCS
- EUNIS
- ...

## For different mapping scales

feasible

feasible with  
ancillary data  
not feasible

# Crosswalk between nomenclatures

6.2	Bare soil, rock, perennial snow & ice	feasible	
6.2.1	Beaches, dunes, sands	feasible	
6.2.1.1	Beaches	contextual class	A common case is that a beach is adjacent to a dune. Differentiation/delineation not possible at required high level of certainty
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6.2.2.1	Bare rocks	feasible	
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7.1.2.2	Inland wetlands	ancillary data required	Differentiation between wetlands and non-wetlands is possible at required high level of certainty
7.2	Wetlands	ancillary data required	Case dependent if ancillary data to be preferred
7.2.1	Wetlands	ancillary data required	Case dependent if ancillary data to be preferred
7.2.1.1	Wetlands	contextual/temporal class	
7.2.1.2	Wetlands	contextual/temporal class	
8	Coastal wetlands	feasible	
8.1	Coastal wetlands	ancillary data required	Confusion with 82 (coastal waters) likely when flooded
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For nomenclatures like

**Define standards for**

- delimitation of the mapping area
- delineation of wetlands
- definition and crosswalk between nomenclatures and mapping scales

feasible

feasible with  
ancillary data

not feasible



# MAES nomenclature – how to classify

## How to classify lagoons, coastal wetlands and estuaries

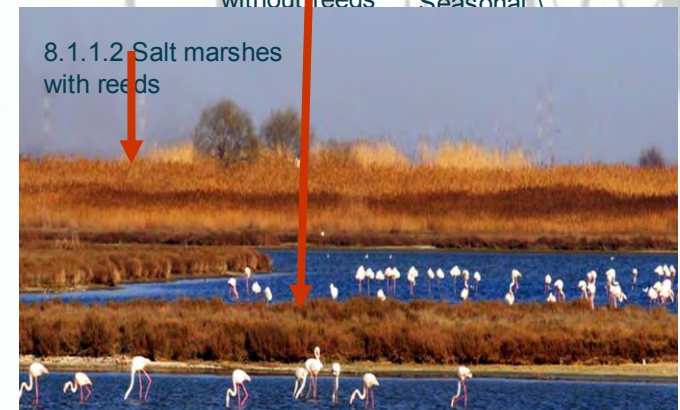
Wetland ecosystem types that can be found in or alongside the boundaries of coastal wetlands, lagoons and estuarine ecosystems: beaches and dunes, riparian forests, riverine and fen scrubs, wet meadows or pastures, wet heaths.



8.2.1 Coastal lagoons

8.1.1.1 Salt marshes without reeds

8.1.1.1 Salt marshes without reeds, Seasonal \



8.1.1.2 Salt marshes with reeds

# MAES nomenclature – how to classify

## How to classify lagoons, coastal wetlands and estuaries

Wetland ecosystem type that can be found in or alongside the boundary coastal wetlands, lagoons and estuarine ecosystems, beaches and dunes, riparian forests, riverine and floodplain scrubs, wet meadows, pastures, wet heaths.

### Provide guidelines / training

How to

- apply nomenclatures / satellite data ⇒ maps ⇒ indicators
- Bring information to decision makers / prepare reporting obligations

**Demonstration** via multilevel service cases





# From Satellite images to maps



# From Satellite images to maps



## Provide guidelines / training

How to

- apply nomenclatures / satellite data  $\Rightarrow$  maps  $\Rightarrow$  indicators
- Bring information to decision makers / prepare reporting obligations

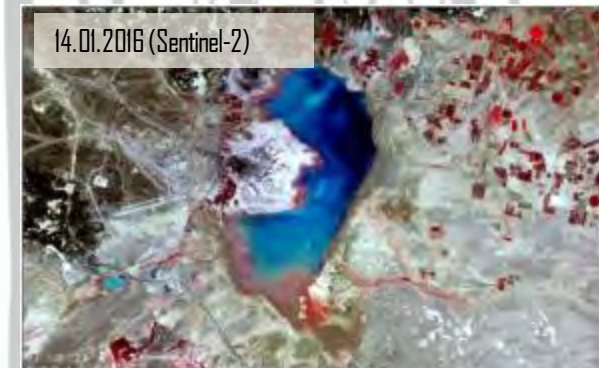
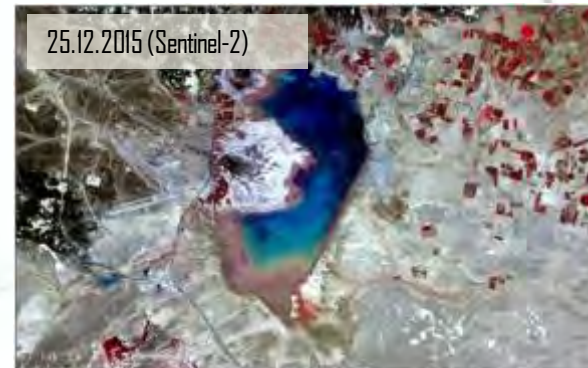
**Demonstration** via  
multilevel service  
cases



# Landsat and S2 for wetland monitoring



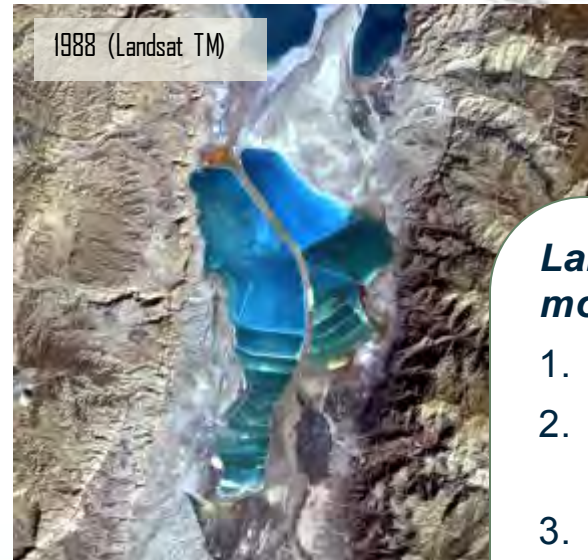
The temporal scale: **Monitoring of long term changes** / decreasing water table (Dead Sea, Jordan/Israel)



The temporal scale: **Monitoring of short term changes** / wetland characteristics (Azraq Oasis, Jordan)



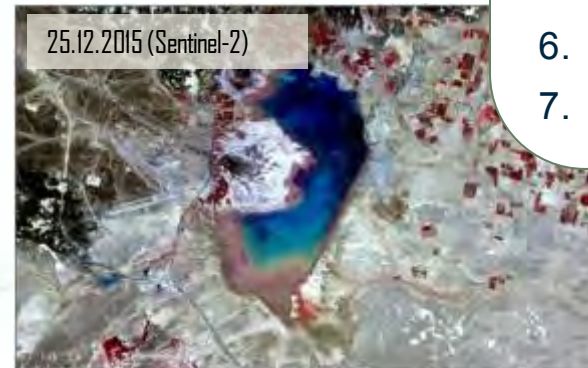
# Landsat and S2 for wetland monitoring



The temporal scale: **Monitoring of long term changes** / decreasing

## ***Landsat/ S2 for wetland monitoring:***

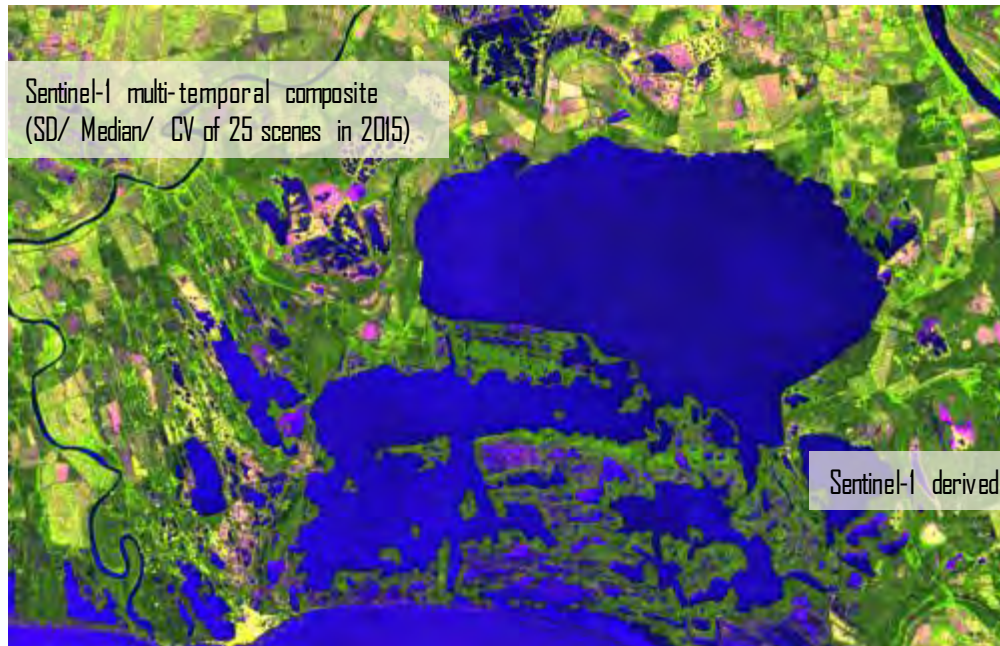
1. Land Use Land Cover
2. Land Use Land Cover Change
3. Water Cycle Regime
4. Inventory and delineation
5. Surface temperature
6. Water quality
7. ...



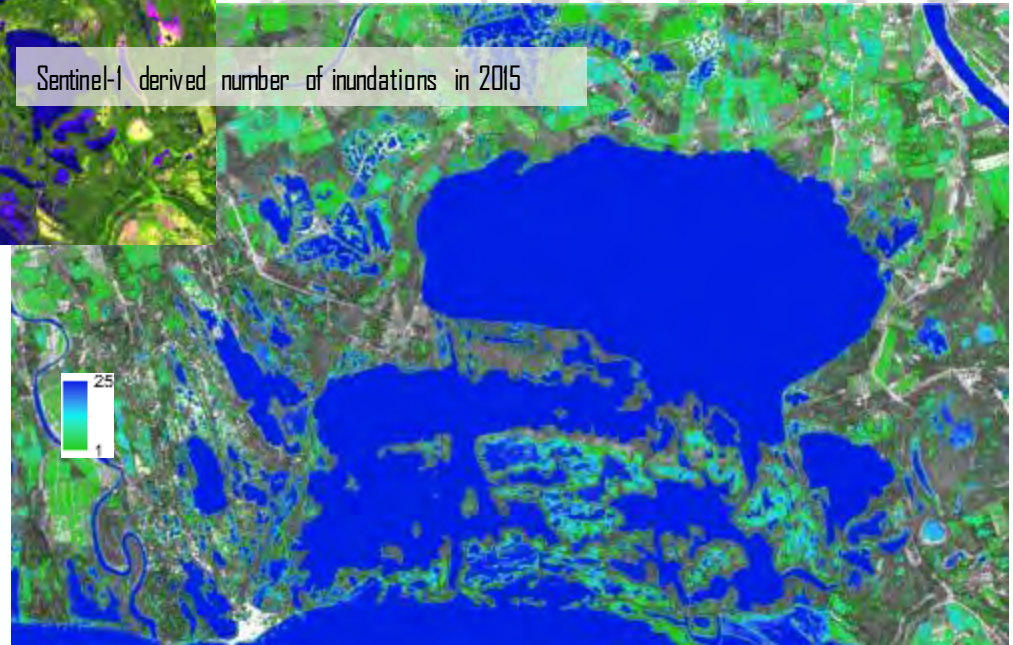
The temporal scale: **Monitoring of short term changes** / wetland characteristics (Azraq Oasis, Jordan)



# Radar data for wetland monitoring

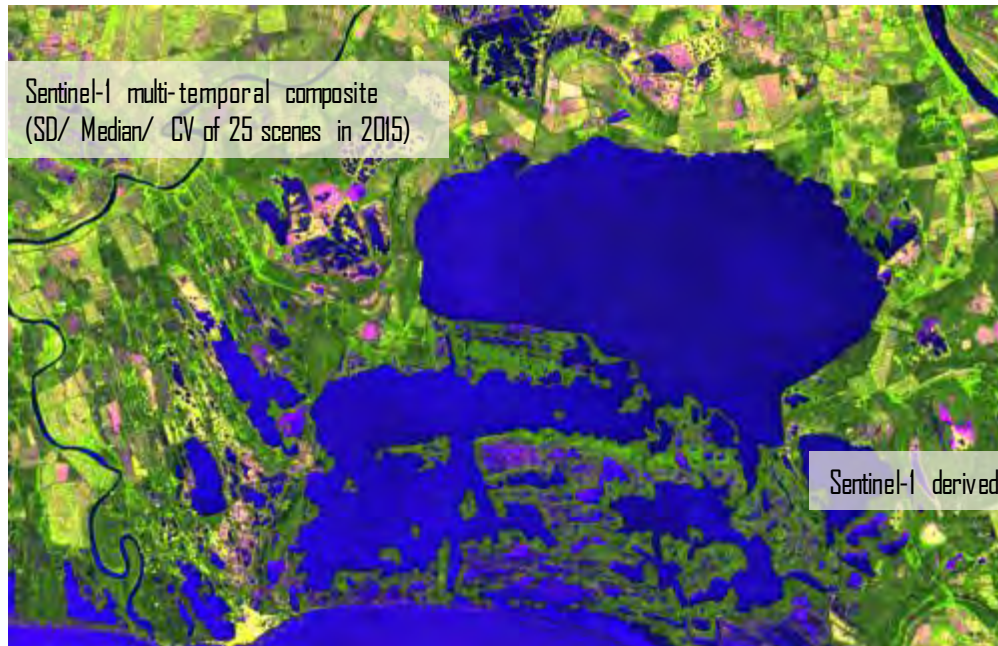


Sentinel-1 derived number of inundations in 2015



The Radar perspective: SAR-based monitoring of inundation (Camargue, France)

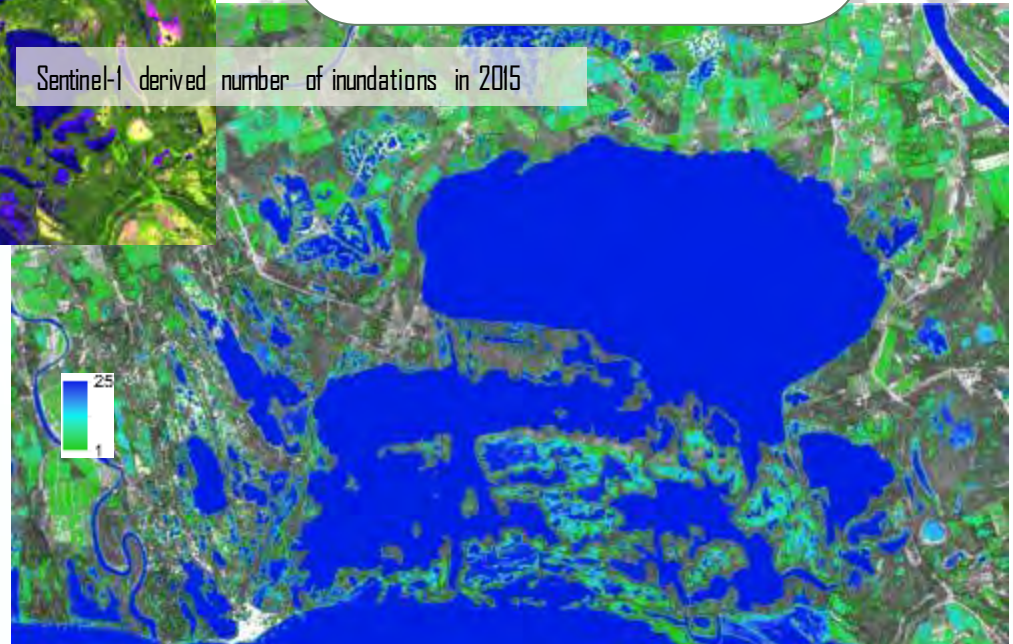
# Radar data for wetland monitoring



## ***Radar data/ S1 for wetland mapping:***

1. Surface water dynamics
2. Inventory and delineation
3. Soil Moisture
4. ...

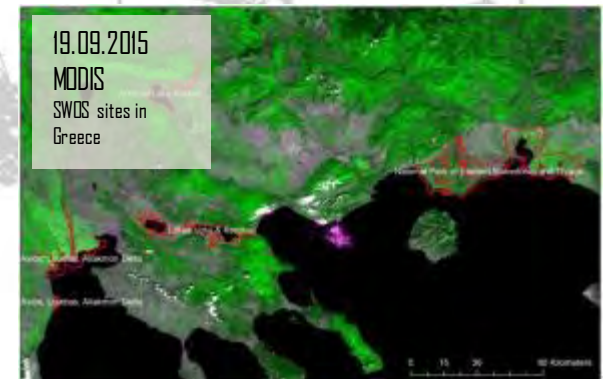
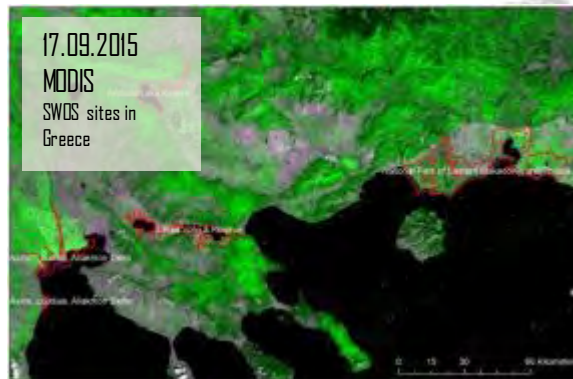
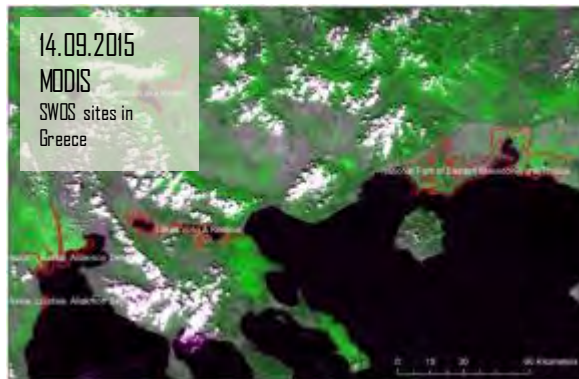
Sentinel-1 derived number of inundations in 2015



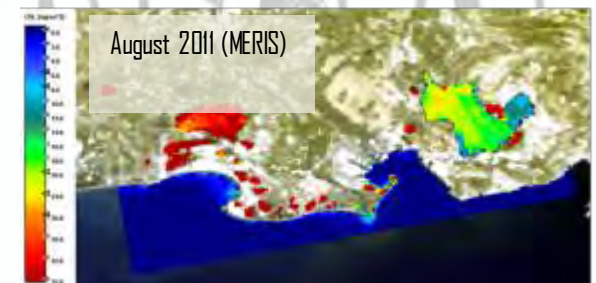
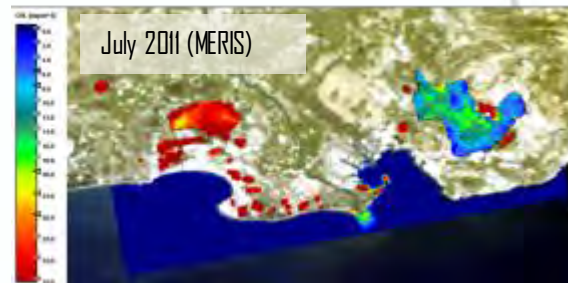
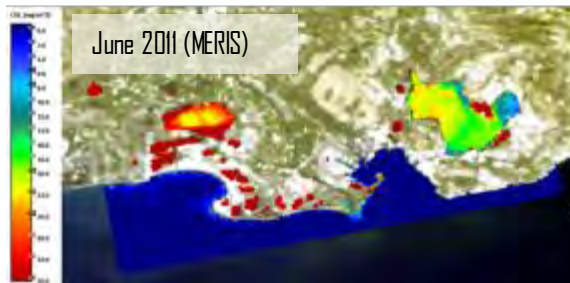
The Radar perspective: SAR-based monitoring of inundation (Camargue, France)



# MERIS / S3 / Modis for wetland monitoring



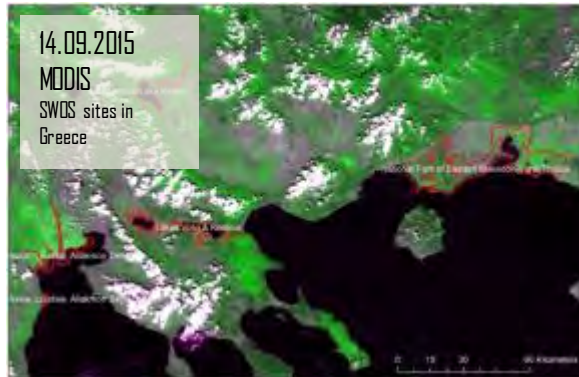
The daily large-scale perspective: large scale monitoring of all the SWOS test sites in one country (Greece)



Water quality mapping: Monthly mean chlorophyll concentration based on MERIS (Camargue, France)

The high values and differences in Étang de Vaccarés (left) are most likely a result of bottom reflectance as it is too shallow to derive chlorophyll, the values and differences in the main parts of Etang de Berre (right) reflect true variations in chlorophyll concentrations between the three months.

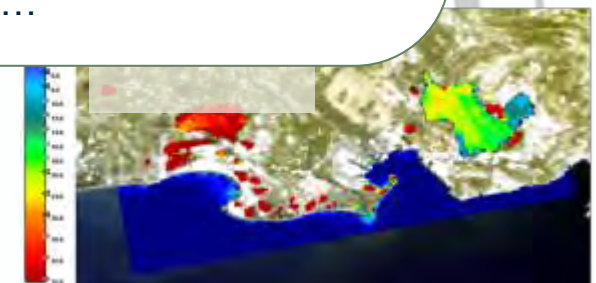
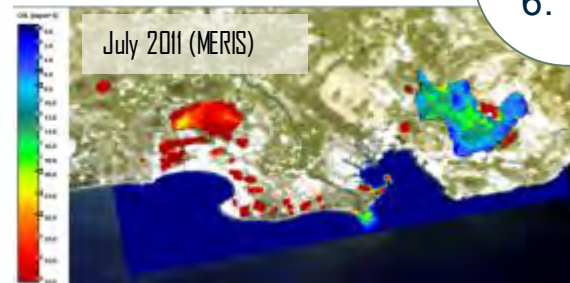
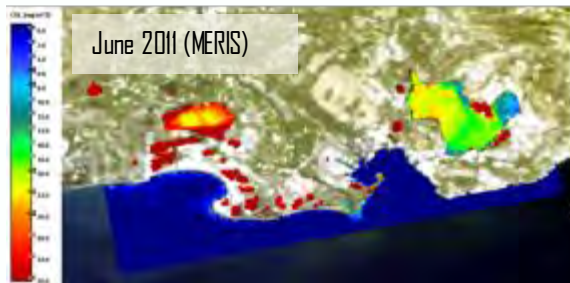
# MERIS / S3 / Modis for wetland monitoring



## **Medium resolution data for wetland mapping:**

1. Water quality
2. Surface temperature
3. Inventory and delineation
4. Large scale coverage
5. Short term changes
6. ...

The daily large-scale perspective: large scale monitoring of all the (Greece)

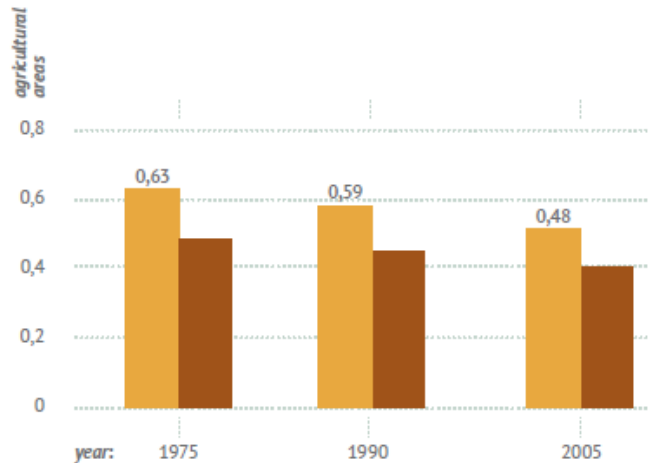
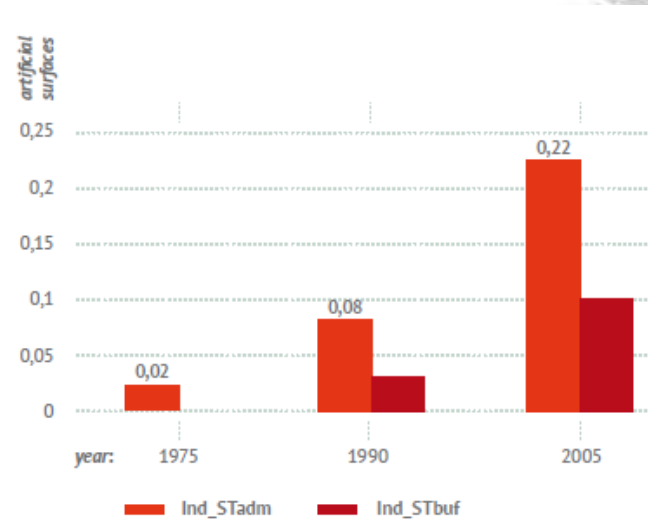


## **Water quality mapping: Monthly mean chlorophyll concentration based on MERIS (Camargue, France)**

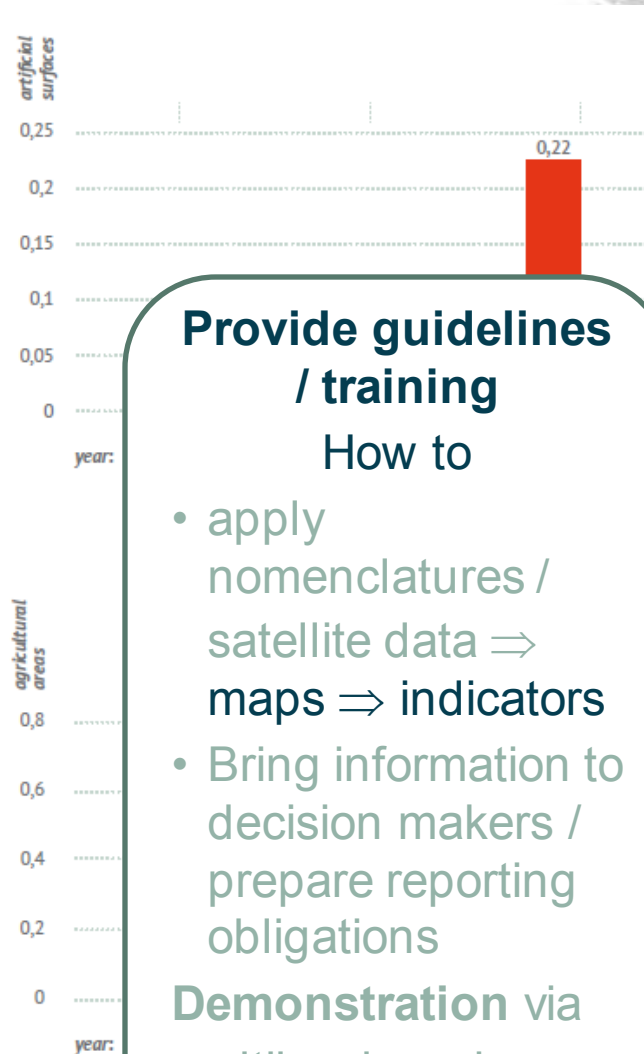
The high values and differences in Étang de Vaccarés (left) are most likely a result of bottom reflectance as it is too shallow to derive chlorophyll, the values and differences in the main parts of Etang de Berre (right) reflect true variations in chlorophyll concentrations between the three months.



# From Maps to indicators



# From Maps to indicators



## Provide guidelines / training

How to

- apply nomenclatures / satellite data  $\Rightarrow$  maps  $\Rightarrow$  indicators
- Bring information to decision makers / prepare reporting obligations

**Demonstration** via multilevel service cases

## *From maps to indicators:*

1. Change in wetland area
2. Inundation of the ecosystem
3. Change in wetland area due to urbanization and agriculture
4. Status and trends of wetland threats



# SWOS Software Toolbox

## Functions

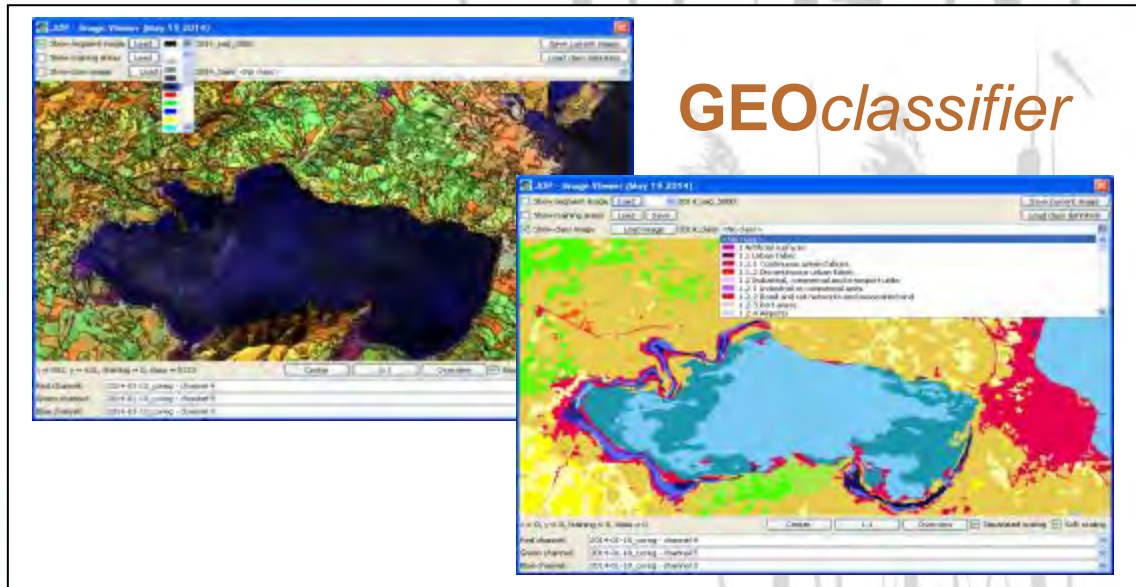
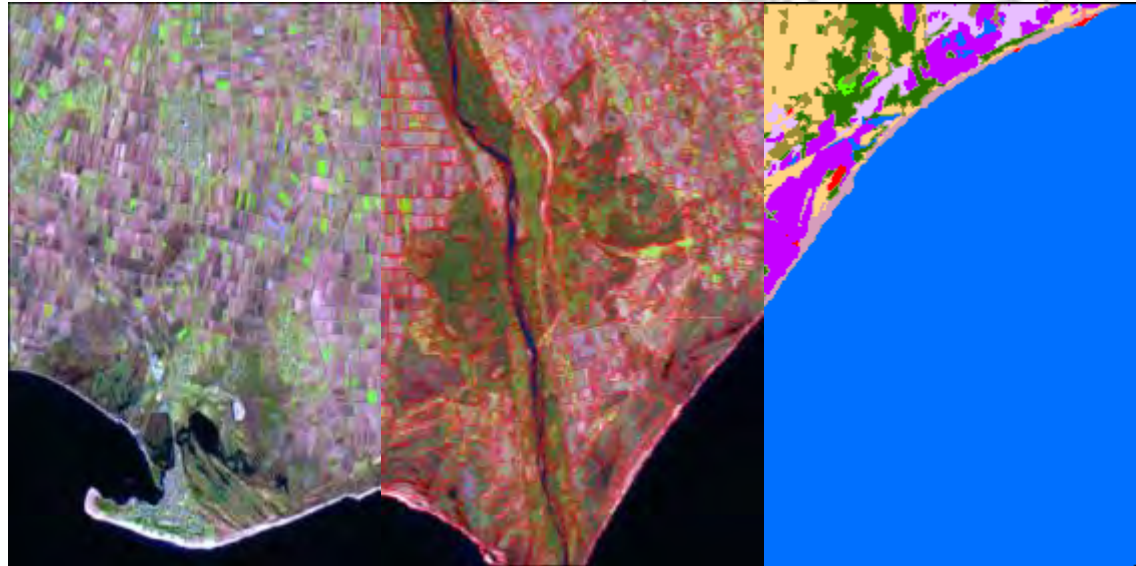
- EO data pre-processing (Optical + SAR)
- Map product generation
- Indicator calculation
- Use *GEOportal* online services

## Easy integration of

- Local knowledge for supervised classification and interpretation
- New and updated **nomenclatures**

## Available as

- standalone version (GUI & command line)
- integrated in external software e.g. ArcGIS, QGIS



# SWOS Software Toolbox

## Functions

- EO data pre-processing (Optical + SAR)
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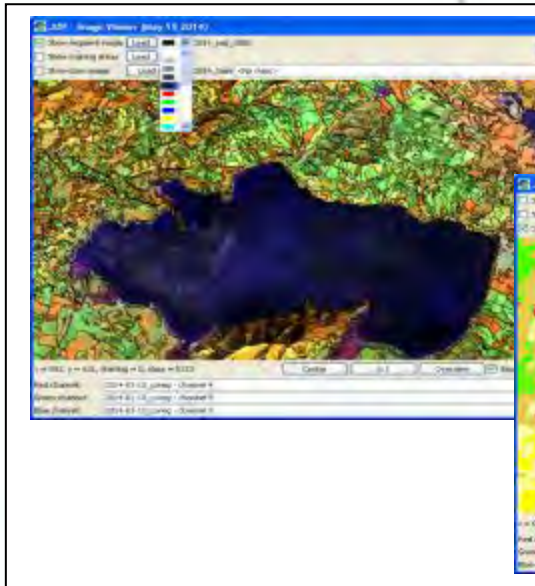
## Available as

- standalone version (GUI & command line)
- integrated in external software e.g. ArcGIS, QGIS



## Deliver the infrastructure to

- locate and connect wetland information (SWOS *GEOportal*)
- derive wetland maps and indicators (SWOS software toolbox and *GEOportal*)





# SWOS test sites (1st iteration)



# SWOS test sites (1st iteration)





## SWOS mapping protocol

addresses the following requirements as they are set in Annex III of the Ramsar Information Sheet

Extent mapping beyond Ramsar designated boundaries

- ☐ Delineate wetland and non-wetland parts of the Ramsar site and depict the wetland boundary with respect to the site's boundary
- ☐ Depict the on a map the Ramsar wetland types
- ☐ Depict key hydrological features: Wetland extent in the wet and in the dry seasons.
- ☐ Depict land uses land cover types in the catchment(s) area

# SWOS implementation – Ramsar reporting

## SWOS mapping protocol

addresses the following requirements as they are set in Annex III of the Ramsar

In

**Provide guidelines / training**

How to

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- Bring information to decision makers / prepare reporting obligations

**Demonstration** via multilevel service cases

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Extent mapping beyond Ramsar

☐ Delineate wetland and non-wetland boundary with respect to

☐ Depict the on a map the Ramsar

☐ Depict key hydrological features seasons.

☐ Depict land uses land cover

s

Ramsar site and depict the

the wet and in the dry

s) area



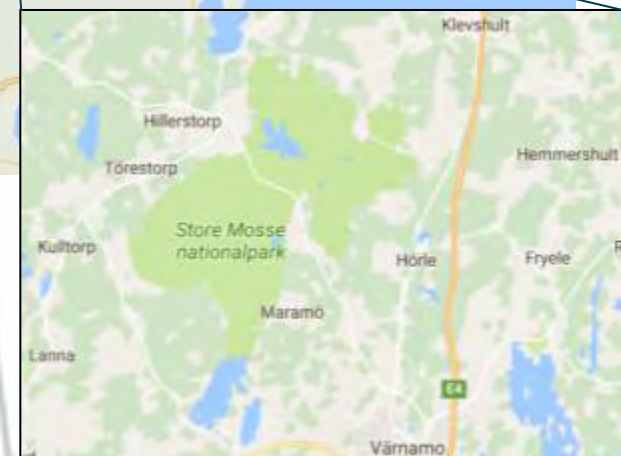
# Store Mosse-Kävsjön



Located in southern  
Sweden

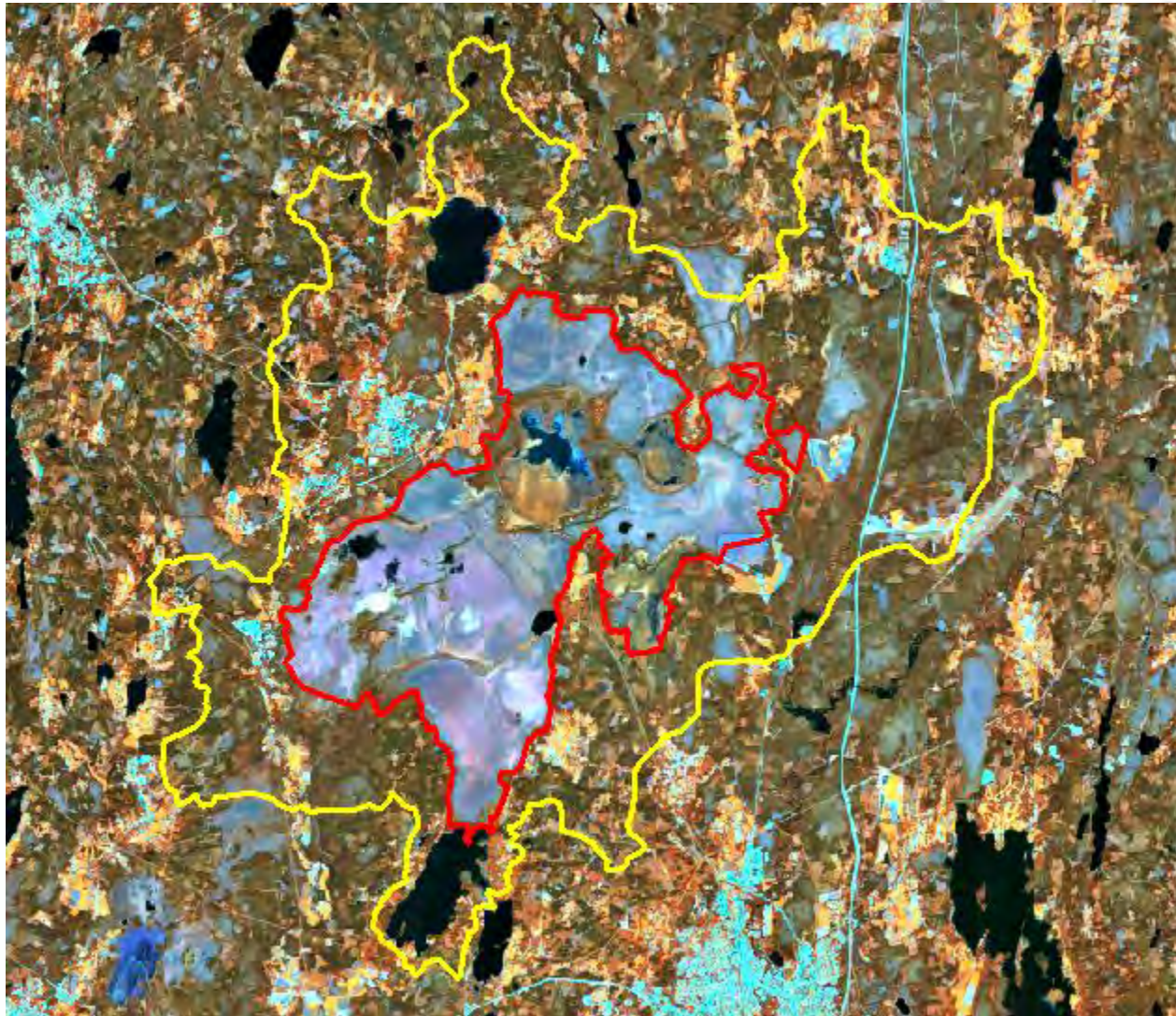
Most extensive and  
largely untouched mire  
area in Sweden south  
of Lappland.

National Park, Ramsar  
Site, Natura 2000





# Store Mosse-Kävsjön



- Ramsar site
- SWOS site

Sentinel 2A, 2015-08-19



# Store Mosse-Kävsjön



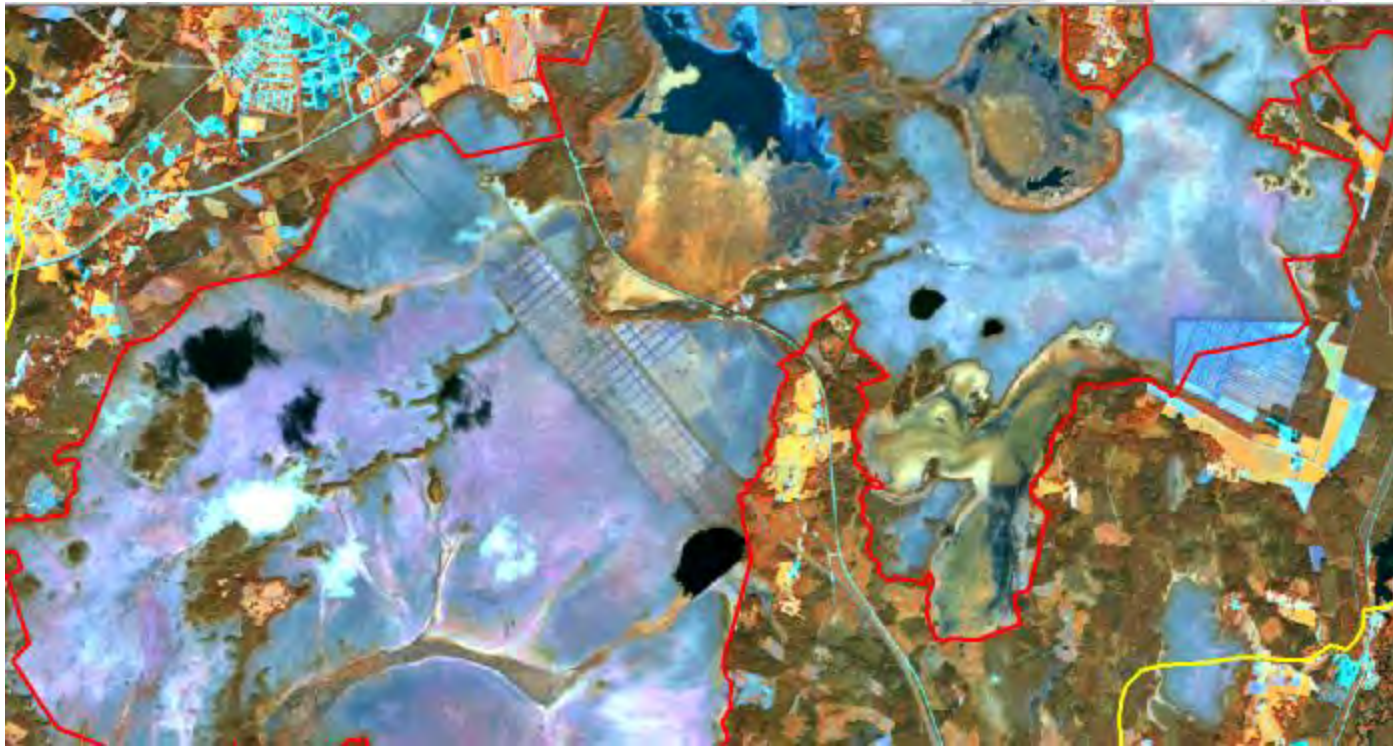
Photos are by Bergslagsbild AB



## Hädingetäkten

- The area is a mosaic of raised bogs, fens and oligotrophic lakes and lagoons.
- Ramsar class
  - U = non-forested peatlands (dominating)
  - Xp = forested peatlands
- Peat extraction site
- Restoration of peat extraction sites are ongoing removal of trees, opening of ditches, ...)
- Needs for monitoring of restauration effects

# Store Mosse-Kävsjön



S2A 2015-08-19

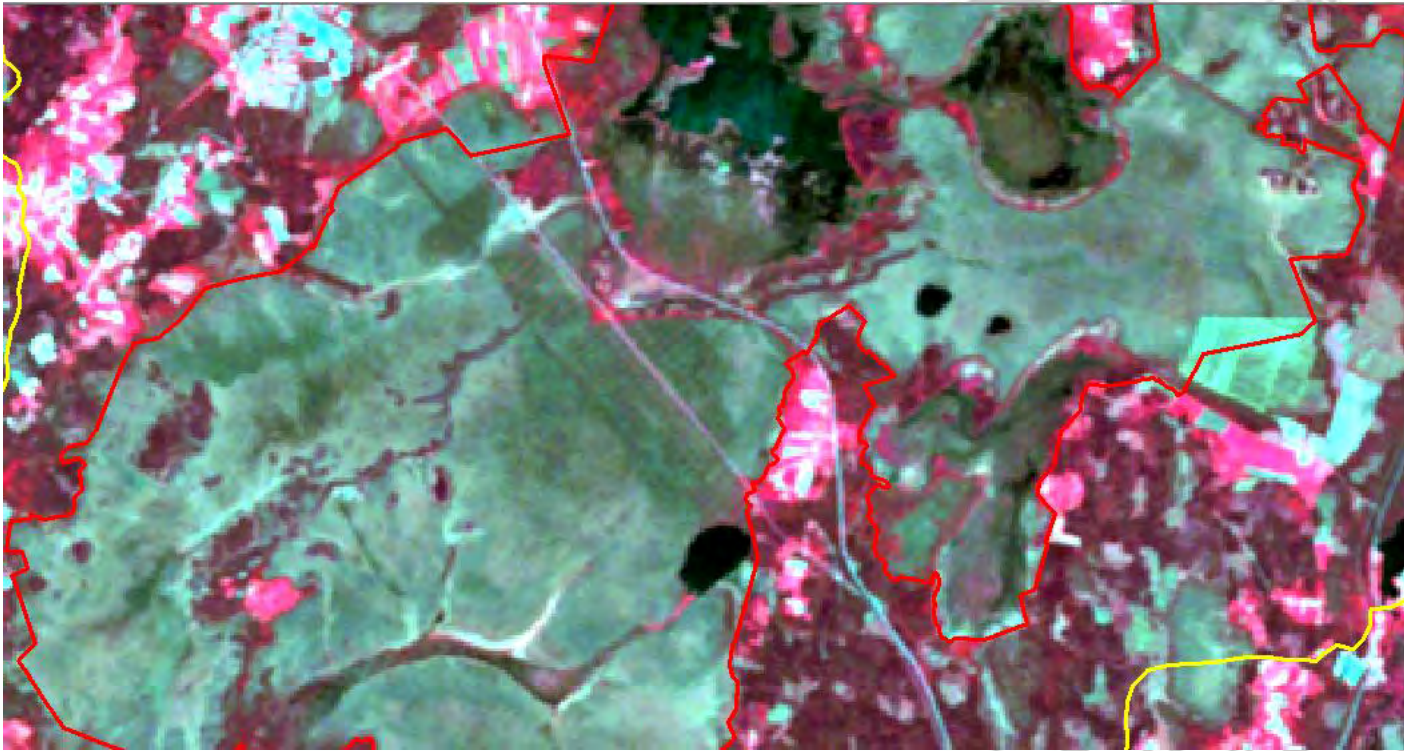


# Store Mosse-Kävsjön



LS MSS 1975-07-03

# Store Mosse-Kävsjön



LS TM 1985-06-01

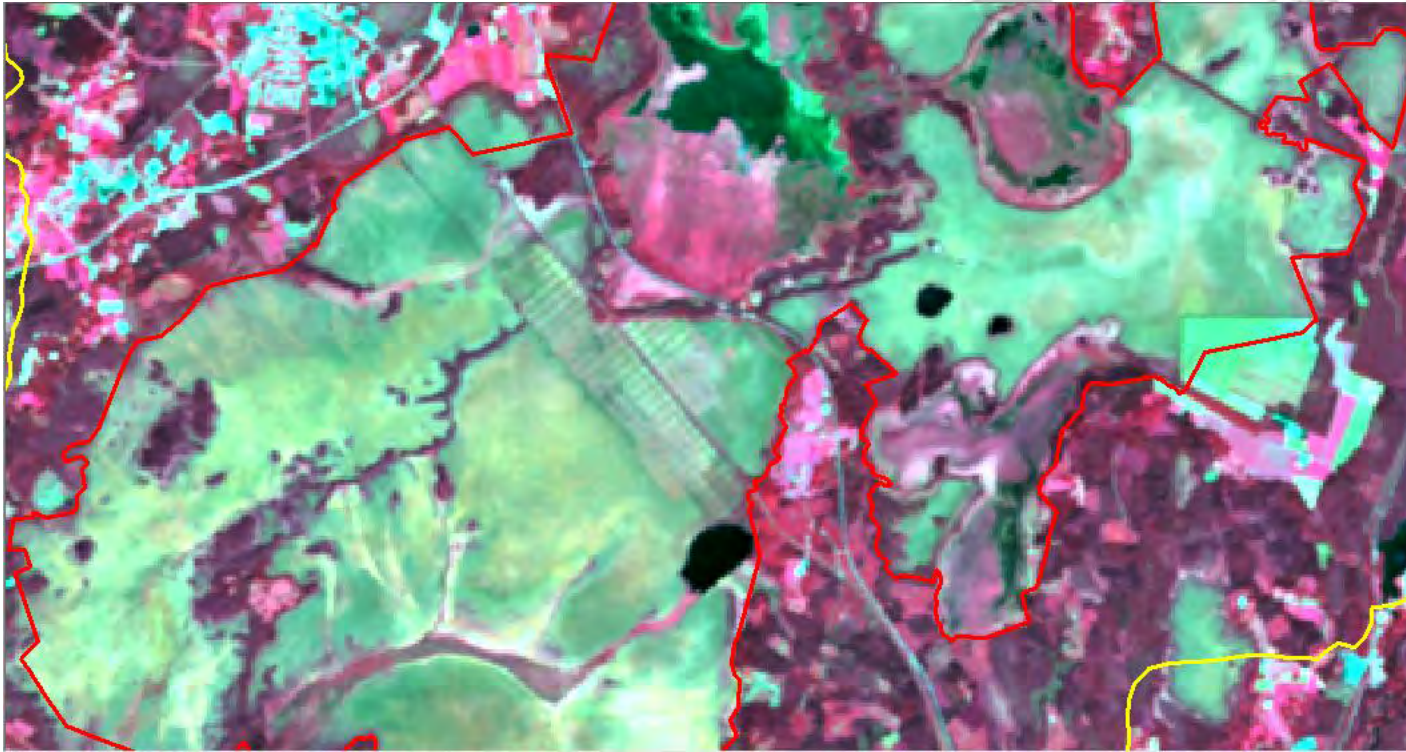


# Store Mosse-Kävsjön



LS TM 1999-08-03

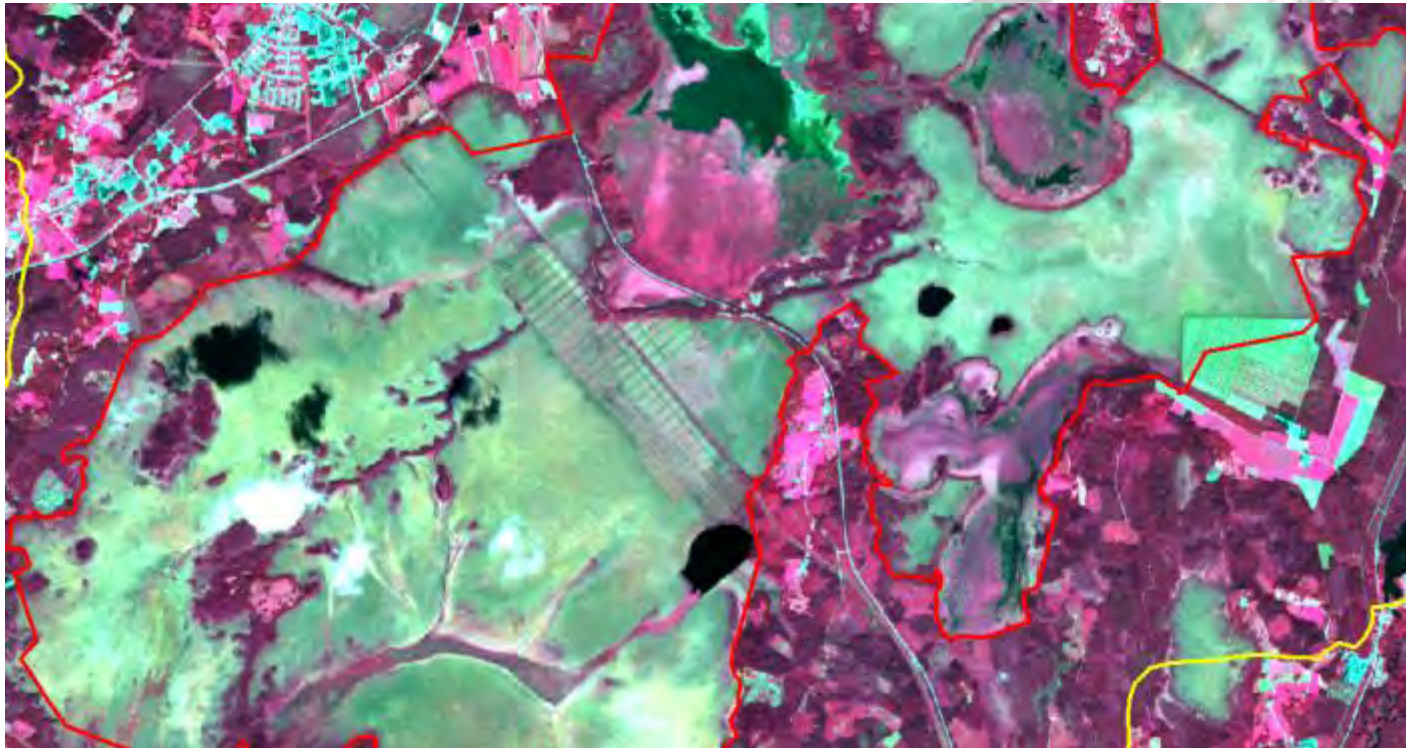
# Store Mosse-Kävsjön



LS 8 2015-08-14

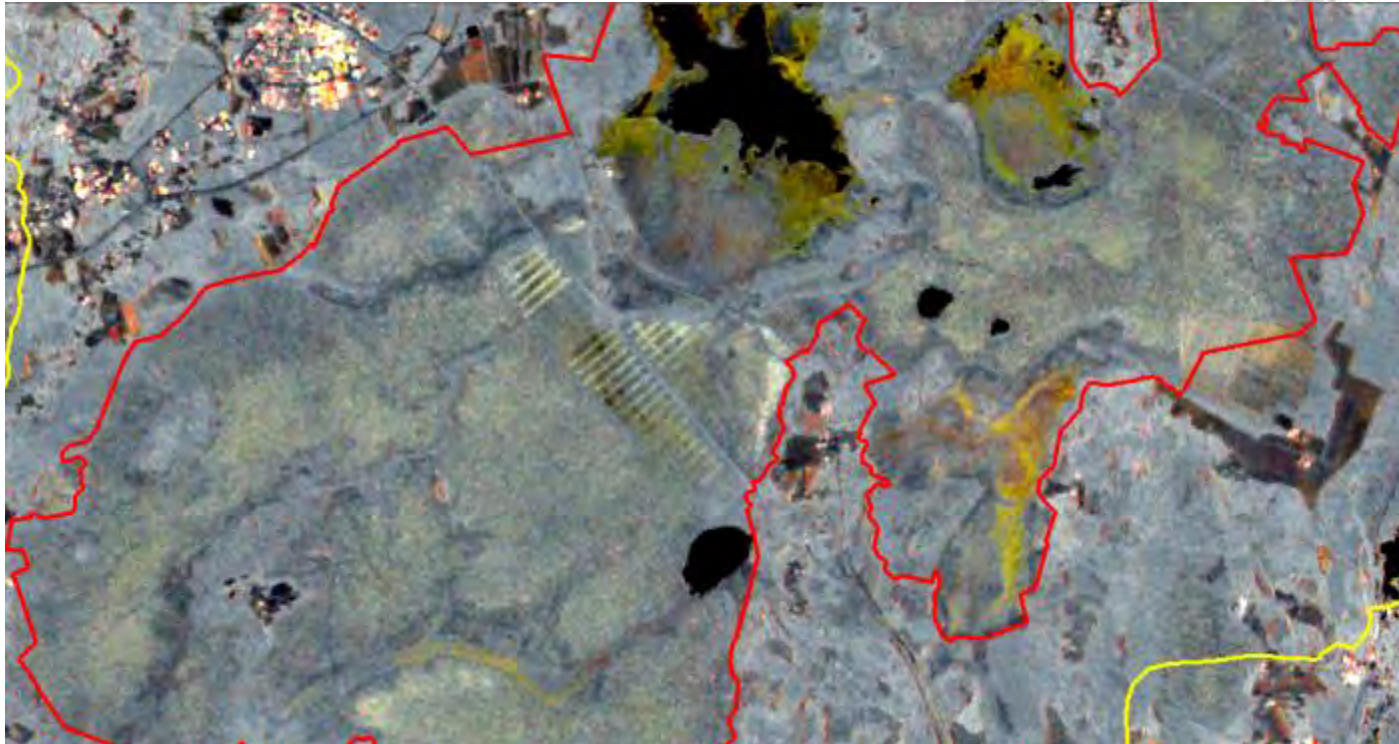


# Store Mosse-Kävsjön



S2A 2015-08-19

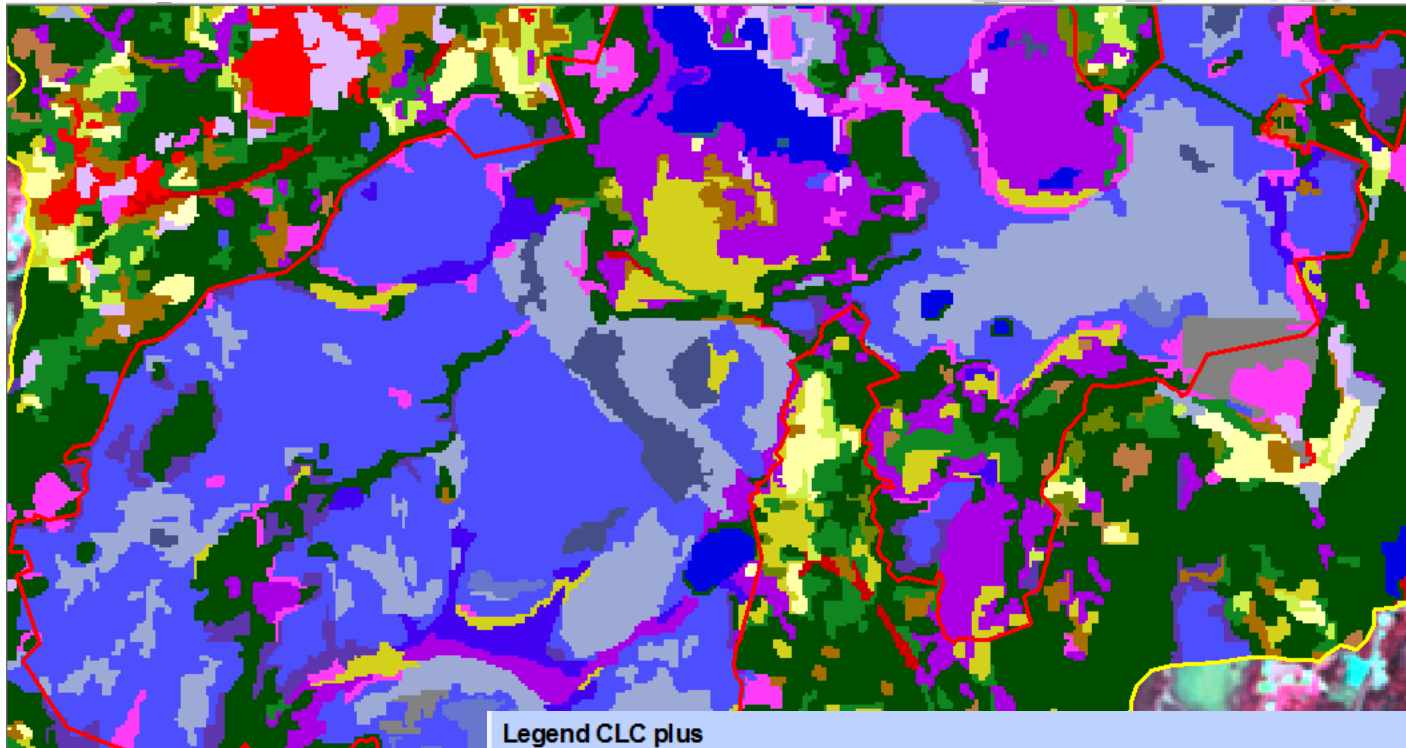
# Store Mosse-Kävsjön



S1 (VV) 2014-2016



# Store Mosse-Kävsjön



Ic8\_20150814\_

## Legend CLC plus

Ramsar Store Mosse	3.1.2 Coniferous forest - regrowth <15 m	4.1.2.1 Peat bog - explored
SWOS site	3.1.2 Coniferous forest	4.1.2.1 Peat bog - heathy
1.1.2 Discontinuous urban fabric	3.1.3 Mixed forest	4.1.2.1 Peat bog - Sph./herbrich
1.2 Industrial, commercial and transport units	3.2.1 Natural grasslands - pasture	4.1.2.1 Peat bog - Sph./intermed. wet
1.2.2 Roads and rail	3.2.4 Trans woodland - clear cut	4.1.2.1 Peat bog - Sph./wet
2.1 Bare soil	3.2.4 Trans woodland - saplings	4.1.2.1 Raised bogs
2.1.1 Non-irrigated arable land	4.1.1 Inland marsh - herbrich/green heath	4.1.2.3 Forested peatlands
2.1.1 Non-irrigated arable land (senescent)	4.1.1 Inland marsh - quagmire	5.1.2 Permanent freshwater lakes
3.1.1 Broad-leaved forest	4.1.1.6 Permanent freshwater pools	5.1.2.5 Lake with reeds

# Thank you !

For more information, contact

**<http://swos-service.eu>**



Kathrin Weise

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























phone +49 (0)3641 200160





# Store Mosse-Kävsjön

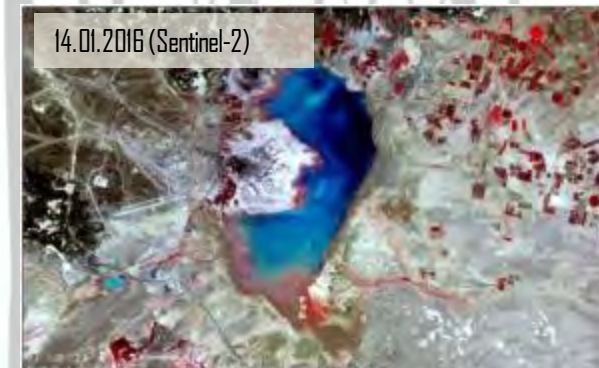
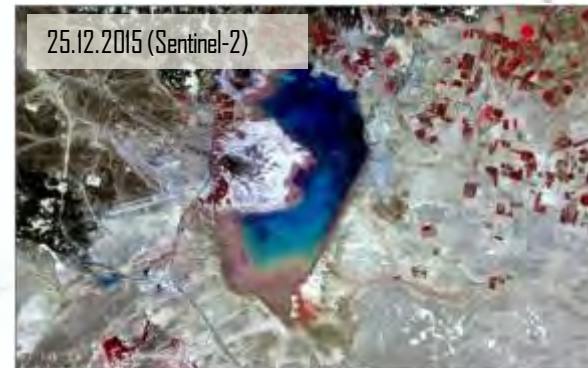
## Legend CLC plus

 Ramsar Store Mosse	 3.1.2 Coniferous forest - regrowth <15 m	 4.1.2.1 Peat bog - explored
 SWOS site	 3.1.2 Coniferous forest	 4.1.2.1 Peat bog - heathy
 1.1.2 Discontinuous urban fabric	 3.1.3 Mixed forest	 4.1.2.1 Peat bog - Sph./herbrich
 1.2 Industrial, commercial and transport units	 3.2.1 Natural grasslands - pasture	 4.1.2.1 Peat bog - Sph./intermed. wet
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# Landsat and S2 for wetland monitoring



The temporal scale: **Monitoring of long term changes** / decreasing water table (Dead Sea, Jordan/Israel)



The temporal scale: **Monitoring of short term changes** / wetland characteristics (Azraq Oasis, Jordan)



# Landsat and S2 for wetland monitoring



1972 (Landsat MSS)



1988 (Landsat TM)



2005 (Landsat TM)

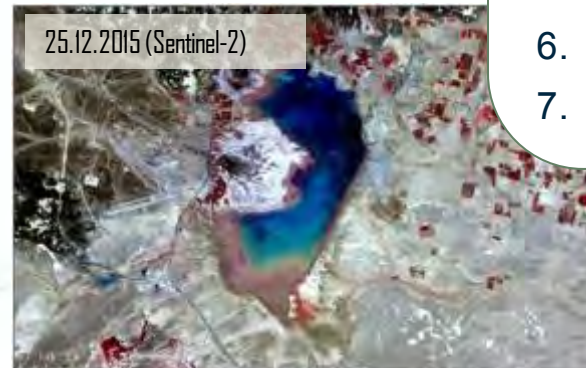
The temporal scale: **Monitoring of long term changes** / decreasing

## ***Landsat/ S2 for wetland monitoring:***

1. Land Use Land Cover
2. Land Use Land Cover Change
3. Water Cycle Regime
4. Inventory and delineation
5. Surface temperature
6. Water quality
7. ...



21.09.2015 (Landsat-8)



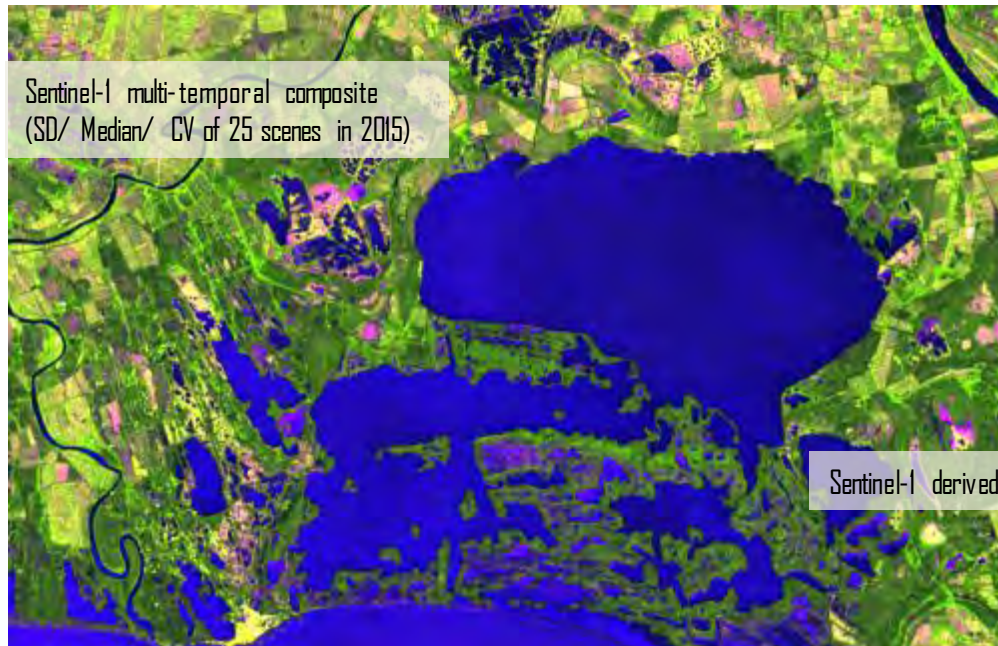
25.12.2015 (Sentinel-2)



The temporal scale: **Monitoring of short term changes** / wetland characteristics (Azraq Oasis, Jordan)



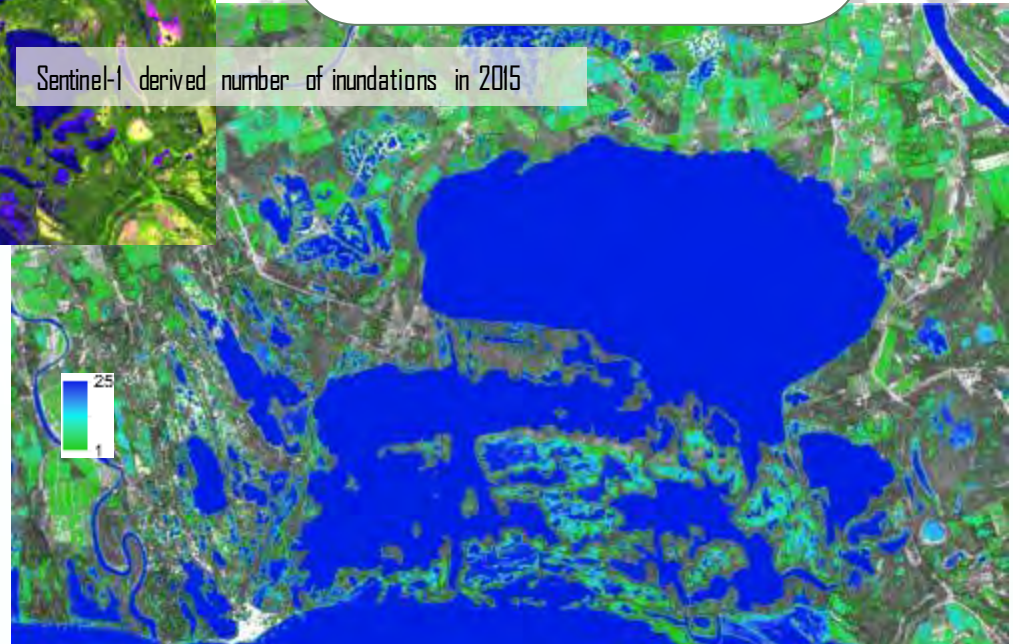
# Radar data for wetland monitoring



## ***Radar data/ S1 for wetland mapping:***

1. Surface water dynamics
2. Inventory and delineation
3. Soil Moisture
4. ...

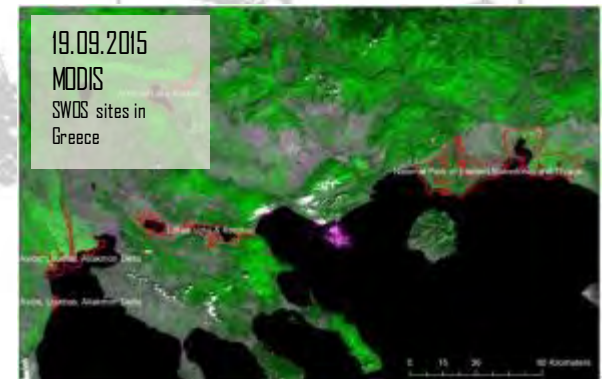
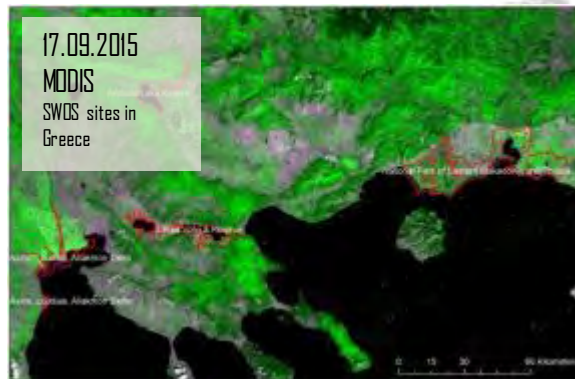
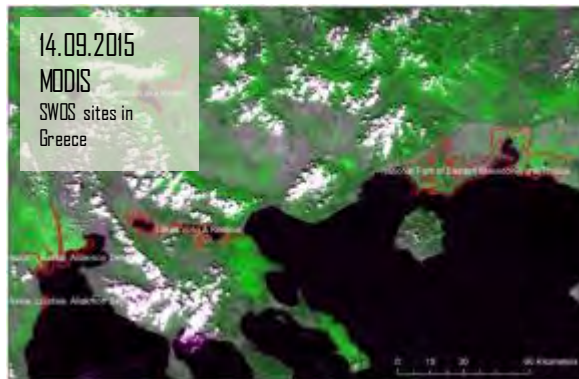
Sentinel-1 derived number of inundations in 2015



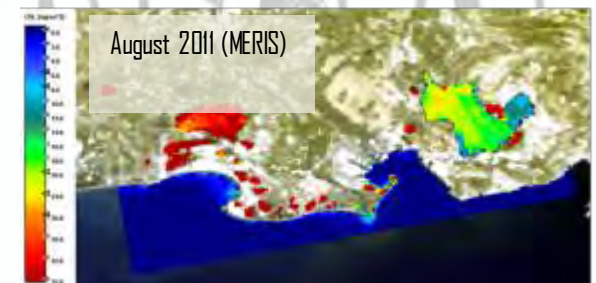
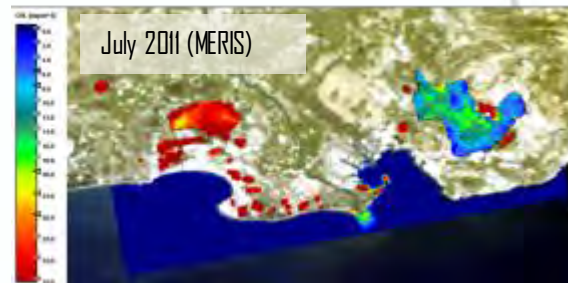
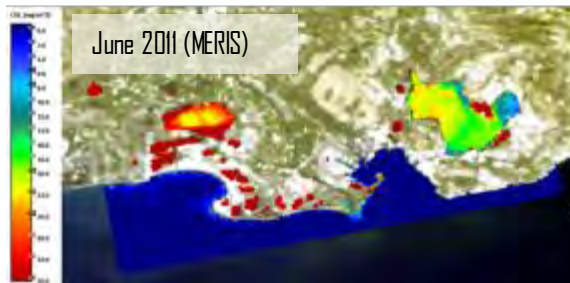
The Radar perspective: SAR-based monitoring of inundation (Camargue, France)



# MERIS / S3 / Modis for wetland monitoring



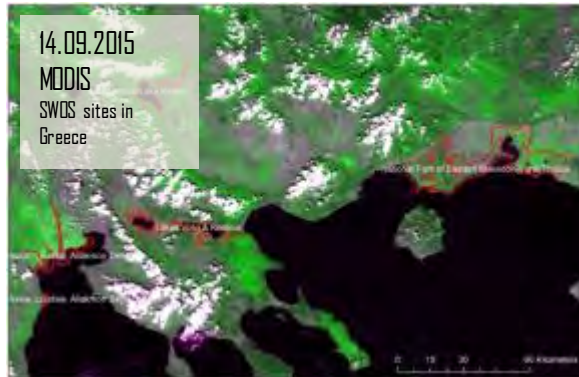
The daily large-scale perspective: large scale monitoring of all the SWOS test sites in one country (Greece)



Water quality mapping: Monthly mean chlorophyll concentration based on MERIS (Camargue, France)

The high values and differences in Étang de Vaccarés (left) are most likely a result of bottom reflectance as it is too shallow to derive chlorophyll, the values and differences in the main parts of Etang de Berre (right) reflect true variations in chlorophyll concentrations between the three months.

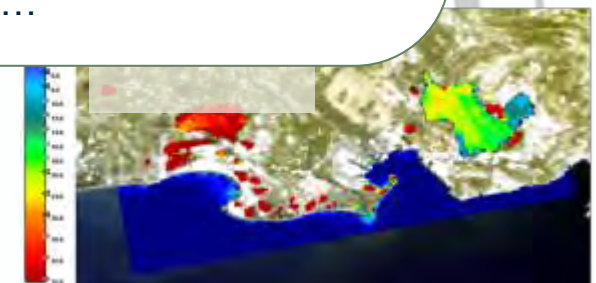
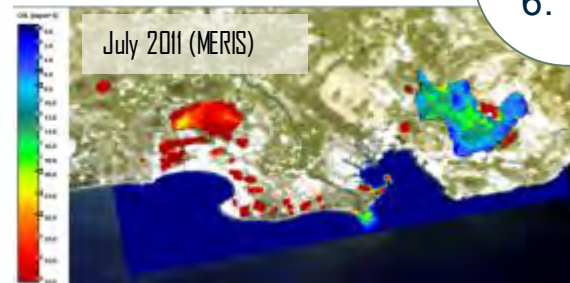
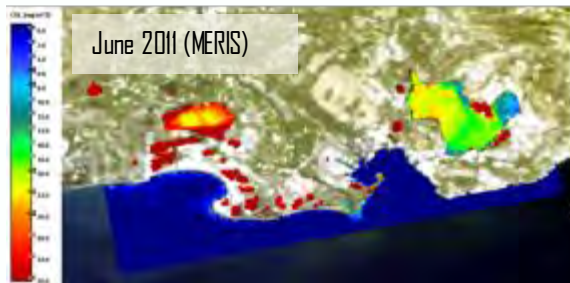
# MERIS / S3 / Modis for wetland monitoring



## ***Medium resolution data for wetland mapping:***

1. Water quality
2. Surface temperature
3. Inventory and delineation
4. Large scale coverage
5. Short term changes
6. ...

The daily large-scale perspective: large scale monitoring of all the (Greece)



## **Water quality mapping: Monthly mean chlorophyll concentration based on MERIS (Camargue, France)**

The high values and differences in Étang de Vaccarés (left) are most likely a result of bottom reflectance as it is too shallow to derive chlorophyll, the values and differences in the main parts of Etang de Berre (right) reflect true variations in chlorophyll concentrations between the three months.



# SWOS implementation – wetland stories

## Transboundary Management

(Skadarsko Jezero/Liqeni i Shkodrës,  
Montenegro/Albania)

- Transboundary management and monitoring
- Establishment of a transboundary Ramsar site (& Biosphere Reserve) Skadar Lake



## Policy context

- Joint Strategic Action Plan
- Big Win 2 (Dinaric Arc)
- Ramsar Convention
- Water Framework Directive

## Users

- Public Enterprise National Parks of Montenegro
- National Agency of Protected Areas of Albania

## Information needs & SWOS products

- Detect seasonally flooded areas and river fragmentation
- Detect potential wetland areas
- Assess water quality

# SWOS implementation – wetland stories

## Transboundary Management

(Skadarsko Jezero/Liqeni i Shkodrës,  
Montenegro/Albania)

- Transboundary management and monitoring
- Establishment of a transboundary site (& Biosphere Reserve)



## Provide guidelines / training

How to

- apply nomenclatures / satellite data ⇒ maps ⇒ indicators
- Bring information to decision makers / prepare reporting obligations

**Demonstration** via  
multilevel service  
cases

## Policy context

- Joint Strategic Action Plan
- Big Win 2 (Dinaric Arc)
- Ramsar Convention
- Water Framework Directive
- rs
- Public Enterprise National Parks Montenegro
- National Agency of Protected Areas of Albania
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