



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

The STRP and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands : looking ahead

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Deputy Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention

STRP Meeting, 2-6 November 2015



Introducing myself and my role as DSG



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Chemical engineer, expert in biological wastewater treatment systems and urban catchment management, worked at national level on science and technology policy and water law (South Africa) and at international level with the CGIAR system (Challenge Programme on Water and Food), GWP

From my terms of reference :

6. Act as the Ramsar Secretariat's focal point for the Convention's subsidiary advisory body, the Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP), and its collaborating institutions, and oversee staff and guide the substantive preparations of its meetings and the implementation of its work plan in general.



2015 : a unique policy opportunity



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UN World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction
14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan



Sustainable Development Goals
September 2015

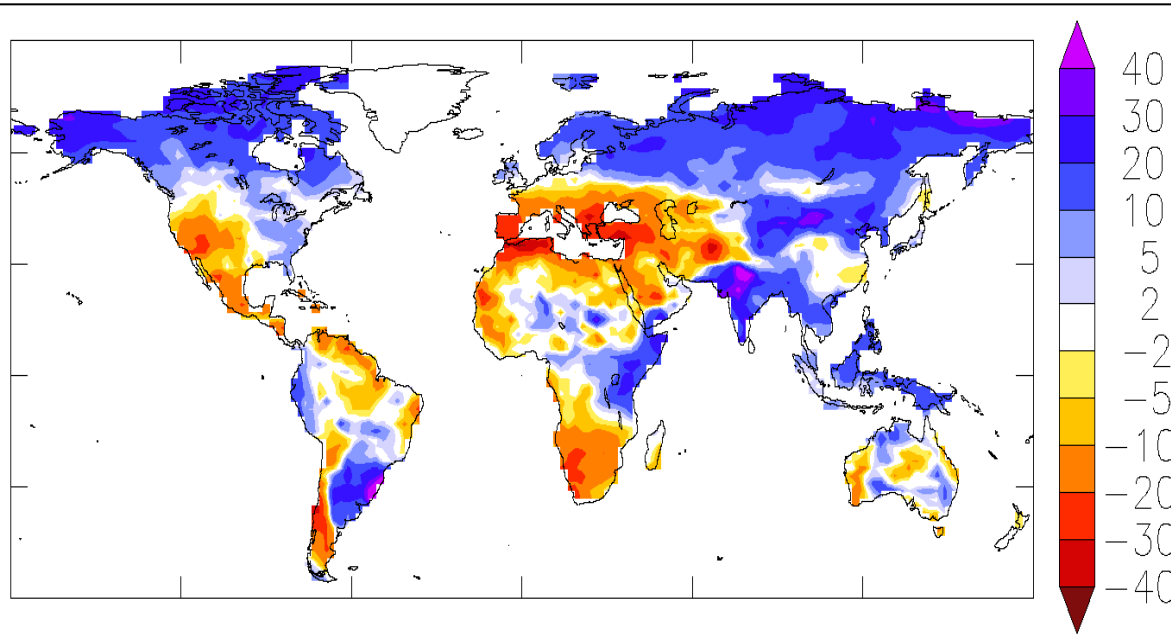
COP21



Climate agreement
December 2015

The new global context : More climatic extremes

Run off variation (1960-90 /2070-90)

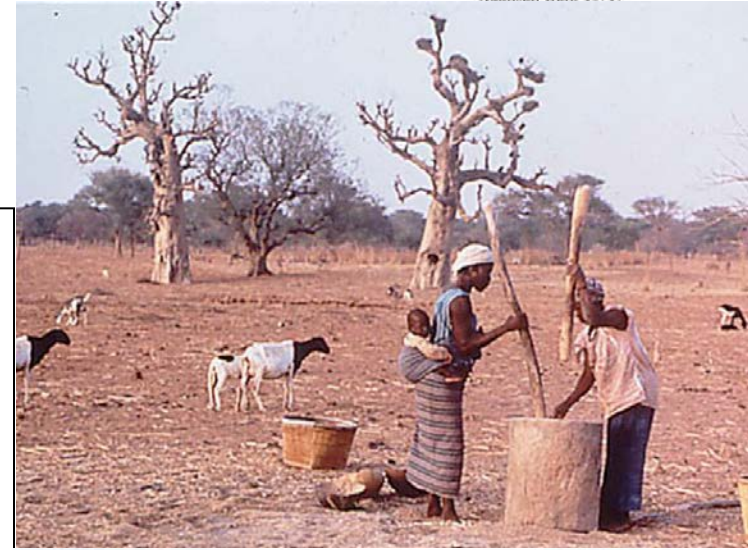


Prepare for more floods and droughts !



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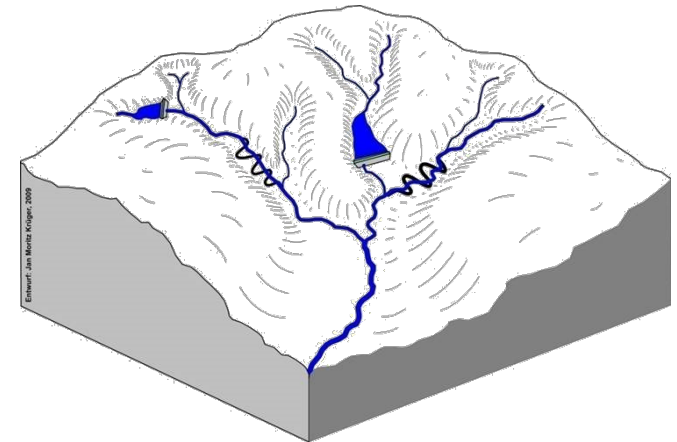


Integrated Flood Management Principles

River basin as a planning unit

Integration of :

- Land and Water Management
- Upstream and Downstream
- Structural and Non-structural
- Short-term and Long-term
- Local and Basin Level Measures - small and large-scale
- Development Needs with Ecological and Economic Concerns
- Climate Predictions with Sectoral Policies and Plans
- Functional Integration of Institutions and Stakeholders / IWRM
- Wetlands are the key!



What is the Secretariat's role in STRP ?

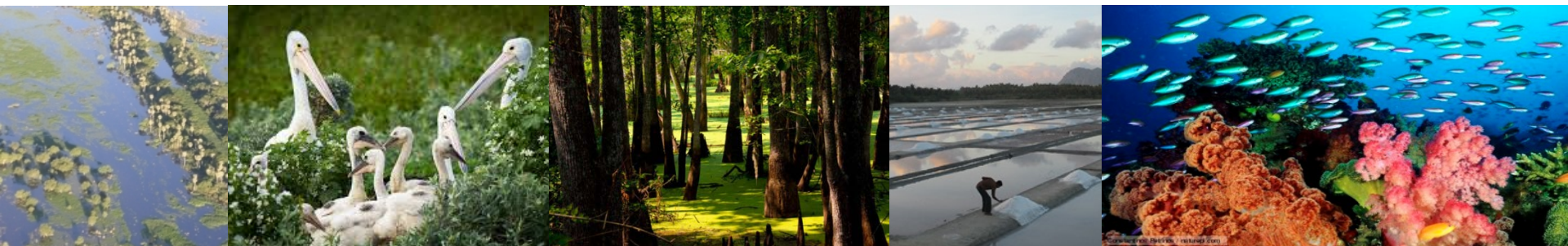


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The Secretariat will continue to support the STRP. Relevant staff includes the Deputy Secretary General, Senior Regional Advisors, the Head of Communications and the Scientific and Technical Support Officer. The Secretariat's responsibilities include:

- facilitating the work of the STRP, including by organizing and administering its meetings and maintaining the STRP Workspace;
- fostering opportunities for collaboration with other conventions, international organizations, including financial organizations, intergovernmental institutions, and national and international NGOs, and facilitating such collaboration as required;
- facilitating linkages between potential experts within countries, regions and globally, including indigenous peoples and local communities;
- identifying the needs of potential audiences and thematic priorities in different countries or regions to suggest to the Parties for their consideration; etc.



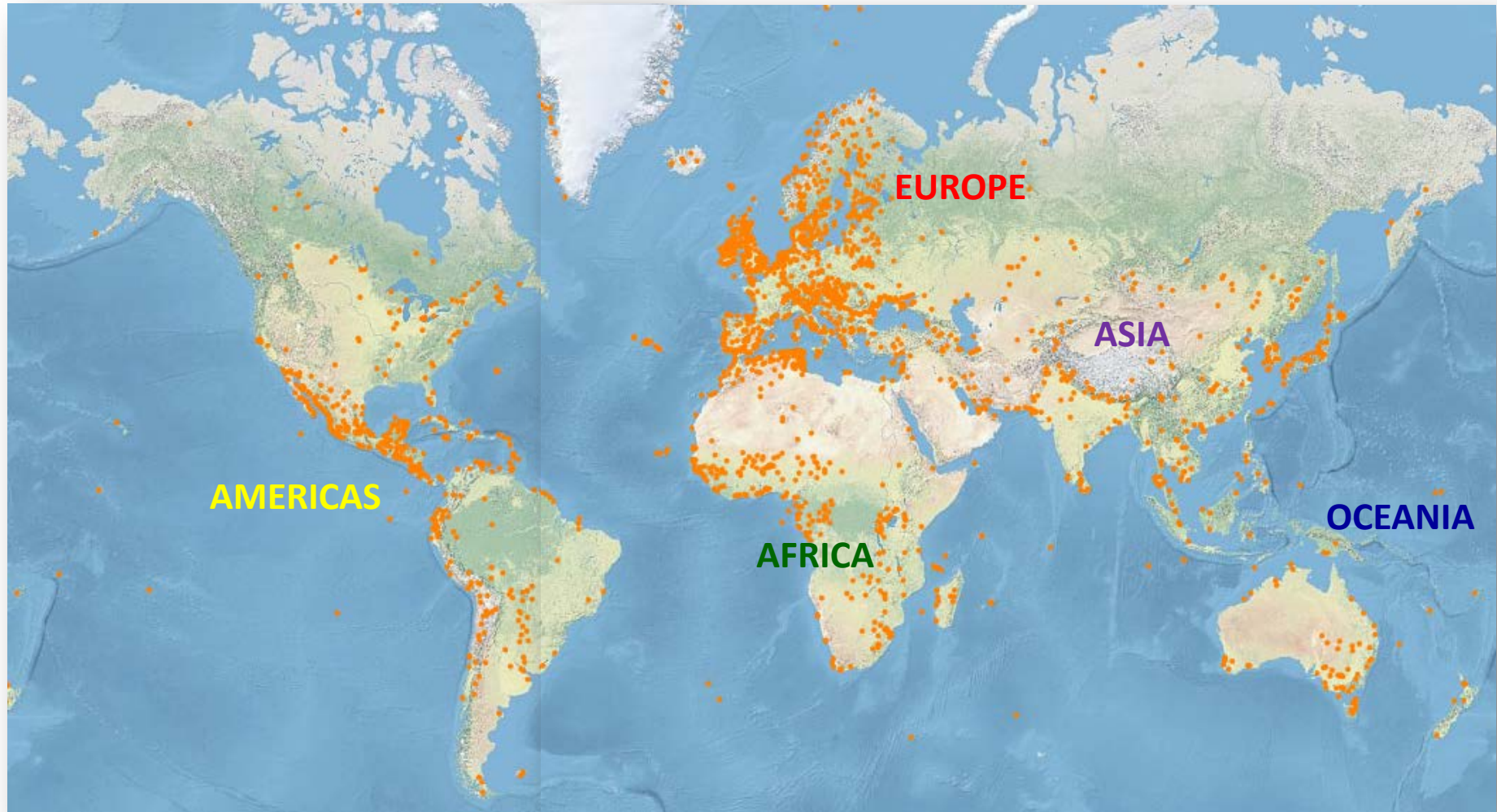
Brief intro to RSIS : the Ramsar Site Information System



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<https://rsis.ramsar.org/> 2,218 Ramsar Sites worldwide; over 214m ha



Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 - 2024



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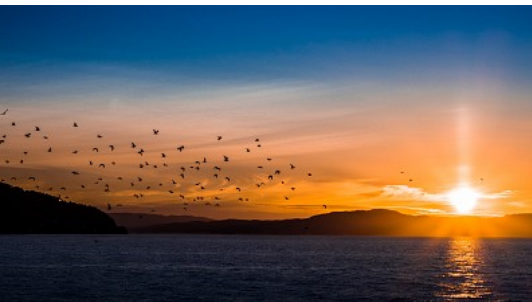
Vision for 4th Strategic Plan (2016-2024)



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

- Supporting countries to achieve wise use of wetlands alongside development
- Ramsar’s approach is designed around four Strategic Goals:
 - I. Addressing the drivers of Wetland Loss & Degradation **(TWA 4 and 5)**
 - II. Conserving and managing Ramsar Sites **(TWA 1, 2 and 3)**
 - III. Using Wetlands Wisely **(All TWAs)**
 - IV. Enhancing Implementation of the Strategic Plan **(All TWAs)**



Ramsar Strategic Goal 1 : Addressing the drivers of Wetland Loss & Degradation



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Target 1: Wetland benefits and ecosystem services feature in national/ local **policy strategies and plans** relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure (TWA 4)

Target 2: **Water use** sustainability is improved while respecting ecosystem and basin requirements (TWA 2 and 5)

Target 3: Public and private sectors have taken steps to apply guidelines and **good practices for wise use of water and wetlands** (TWAs 2 and 3)

Target 4: **Invasive alien species** and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority invasive species are controlled or eradicated (TWA 2)



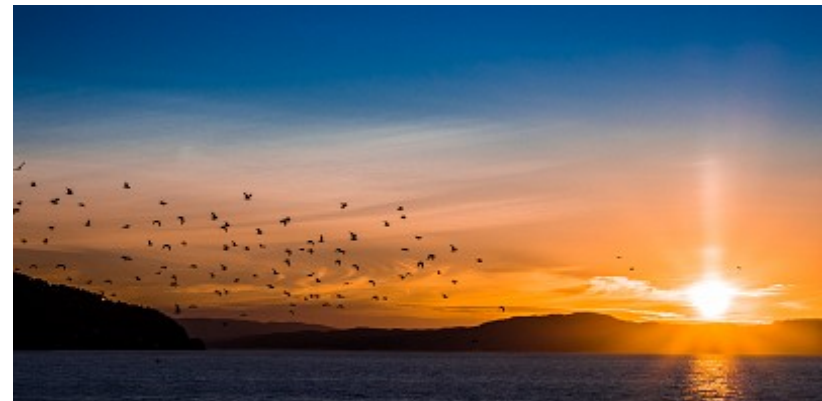
Ramsar Strategic Goal 2 : Conserving and managing Ramsar Sites



Target 5: The **ecological character** of Ramsar sites is **maintained**, through effective planning and management
(TWA 2)

Target 6: There is a significant **increase in the Ramsar site network**, in particular underrepresented types of wetlands
(TWA 1)

Target 7: Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character have their **threats addressed**.
(TWA 2, 4 and 5)



Ramsar Strategic Goal 3 : Using Wetlands Wisely



Target 8: National wetland inventories have been completed (TWA1)

Target 9: The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through **integrated water resource management at river basin level** (TWA 4)

Target 10: Wetland **services and benefits** are widely demonstrated and documented (TWA 3)

Target 11: Restoration is in progress or completed in degraded wetlands (TWA 5)

Target 12: Sustainable fisheries, agriculture and ecotourism are expanded, contributing to biodiversity conservation and **human livelihoods** (TWA 2)



Ramsar Strategic Goal 4 : Enhancing Implementation



Target 13: Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics **(All TWAs)**

Target 14: Ramsar Regional Initiatives are reinforced with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region

Target 15: Wetland values are mainstreamed through **CEPA** : communications, education, public participation and awareness

Target 16: Financial resources for implementing the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan are increased

Target 17: International cooperation is enhanced

Target 18 : Capacity is built for using wetlands wisely **(All TWAs)**



Wetlands

in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



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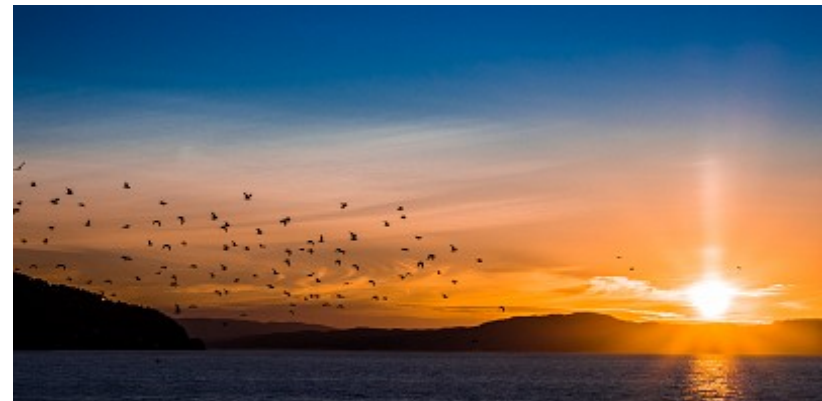
Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all [Water Goal]

Target 6.6 : Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, **wetlands, rivers, aquifers & lakes**

Indicator for 6.6 : change in wetlands extent over time [Ramsar]

Goal 15 : Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems...halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss [Biodiversity Goal]

Target 15.1 : Ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, **wetlands**, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements



Wetlands in PEDRR

PEDRR

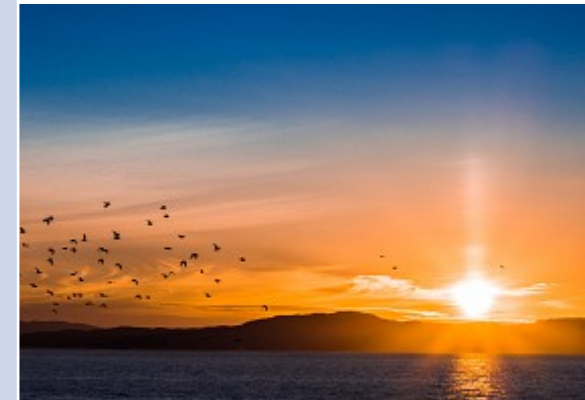
Ecosystems for
Adaptation and
Disaster Risk Reduction



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Priority Activities:	Who	When
Eco-DRR indicators for Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and the post 2015 SDGs	UNISDR/UNDP/IISD UNU/SEI/SCBD Ramsar	From July 2015 to 2016
Mapping projects related to ecosystems/DRR/CCA and developing infographics once database is ready	UNDP to lead with country level projects IUCN /Ramsar	Sep. 2015 (UNDP) – Mar. 2016- completed
Global literature Review- Quantitative information on ecosystem services for DRR	IUCN-CEM to lead Support from PEDRR secretariat + UNESCO Ramsar STRP	Dec. 2015
Inventory of tools used and developed by PEDRR, which can be disseminated and injected into other approaches, eg. Risk assessments – Library/Survey for partners – Database/Compilation – List of PEDRR partner training resources and background documents – Other tools that can be used to inject info for risk assessment and development capacity assessment –	IUCN to lead Wetlands International IISD/UNDP Ramsar STRP	By Dec. 2015 complete information Leveraging will take place later



Early proposal for a GWOS : Global Wetlands Observational System



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Ownership: Responsibility for the objective, ensuring it continues



Governance: Entitlement to control it

Major stakeholders, funders, champions



Operational Partnership: Steering the delivery

Project leads, expert advisors, data providers, end users,
other stakeholders



Harmonization at Convention level – the BLG



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The Liaison Group of Biodiversity-Related Conventions

<https://www.cbd.int/blg/>



Harmonization at site level



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Harmonizing the Integrated Management Systems of Areas with Multiple International Designations

(Ramsar Sites, World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, Global Geoparks)

http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/final_report_idas_workshop_jezu.pdf



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World
Heritage
Convention



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Man and
the Biosphere
Programme





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Thank you, merci beaucoup, mucho gracias!

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