



Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at global level

Agenda item XI

Based on COP11 DOC 7 and 8



No wetlands... no sustainable development



WATER



Belil Lahcene © Chott Tinsilt, Algeria

AGRICULTURE



Yus Rusila Noor © North Coast Java, Indonesia

FOOD



Ather Masoodi © Wular Lake, India

TOURISM



Heber Sosa © Laguna Llanqueto, Argentina

BIODIVERSITY



Peter Csonka © Old Lake at Tata, Hungary

GOAL 1

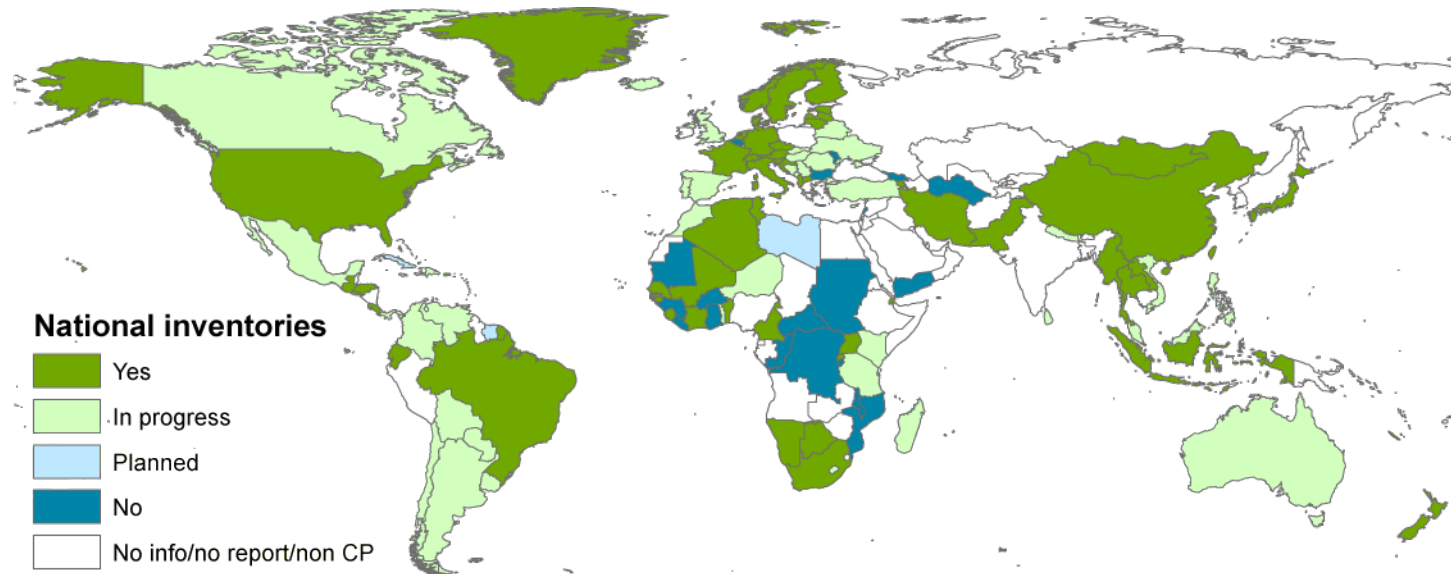
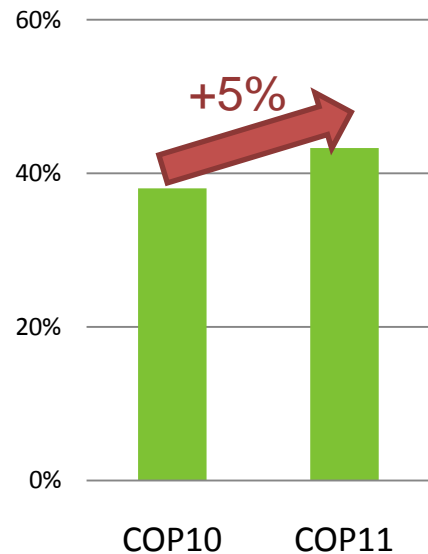


WISE USE



Assessment and monitoring

National wetland inventories



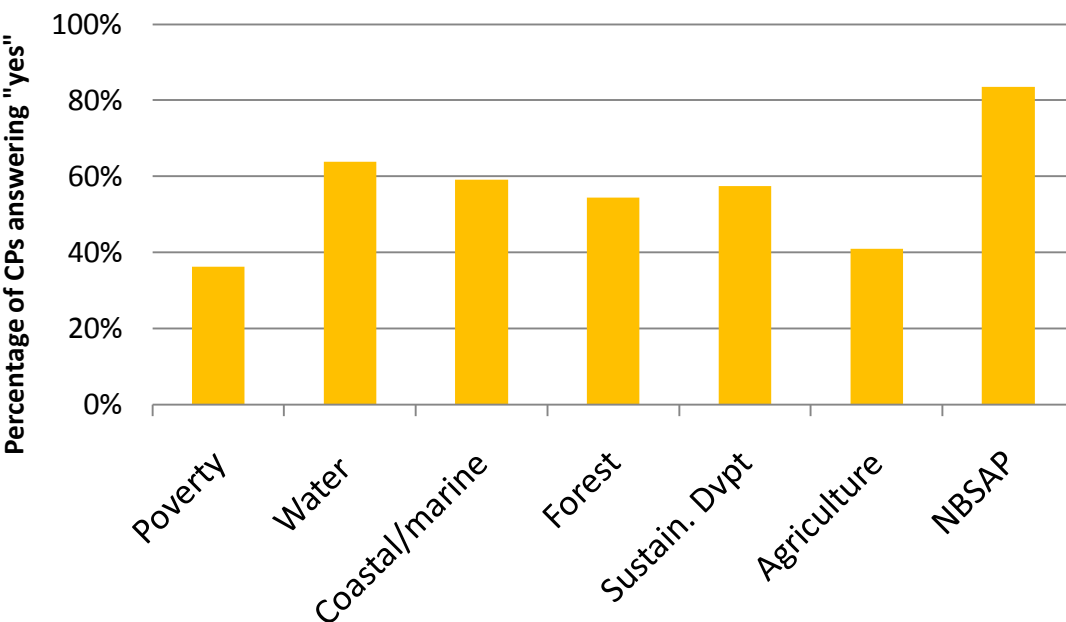
Recommendations:

- National inventories with description of ecosystem services for all CPs
- to be used for assessing the loss of vital role of wetlands
- Language adapted to decision makers for easy link with local/national priorities

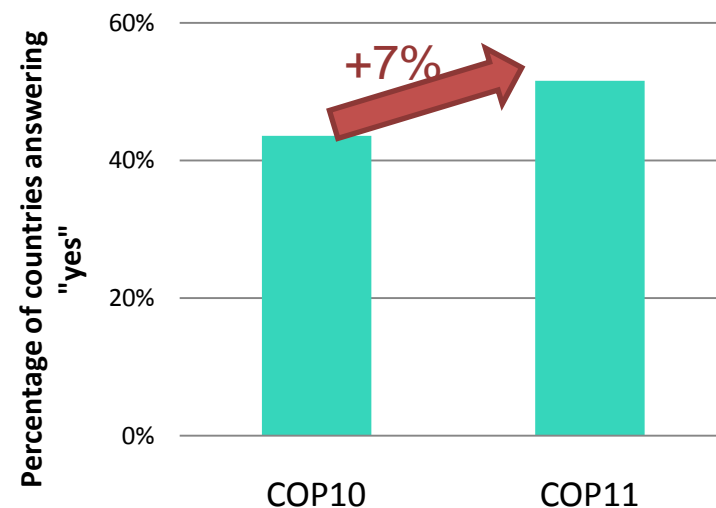
National wetland policies



Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes?



National wetland policy



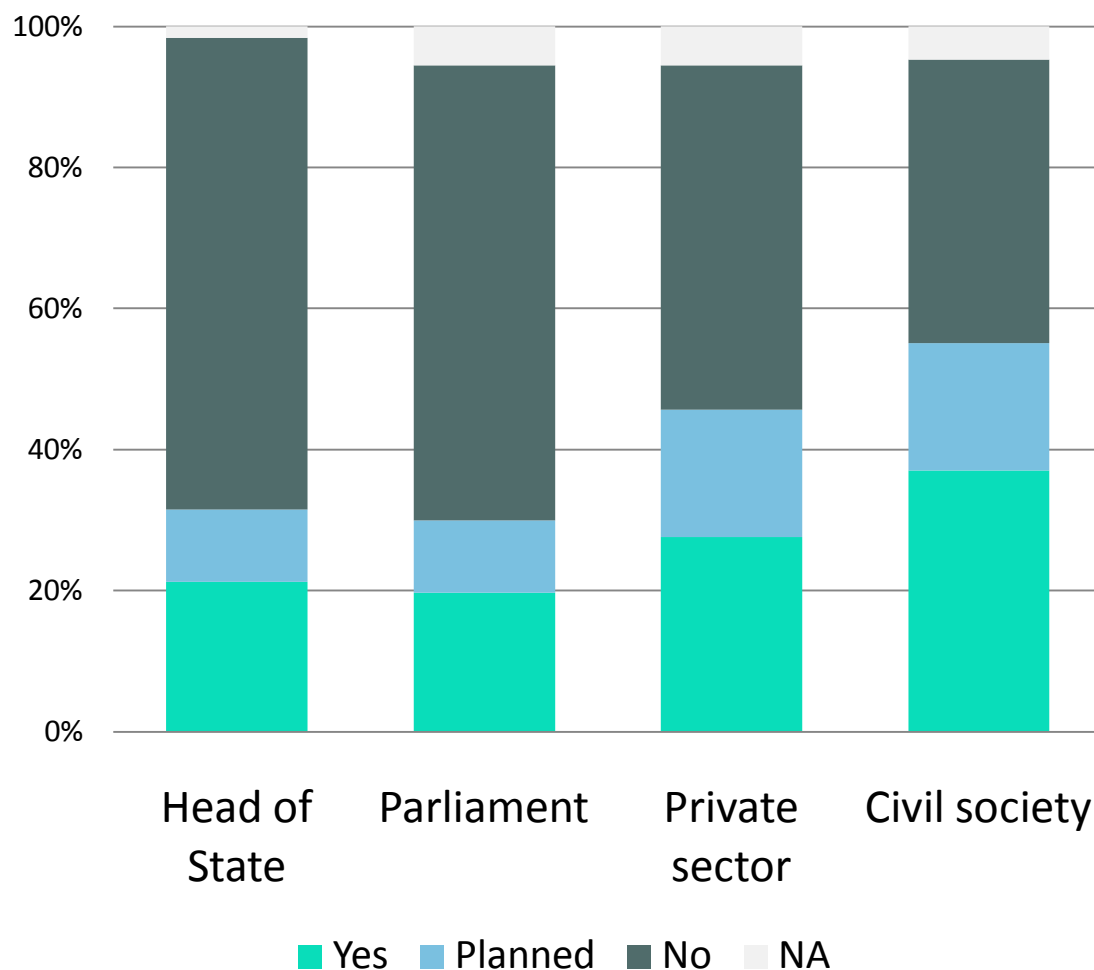
Recommendations:

- Undertake and use wetland inventory to adopt policies
- Integrate wetlands in local/national priorities and national legislative frameworks.
- Through NWP, value wetlands as natural infrastructures providing critical ecosystem services

Changwon declaration



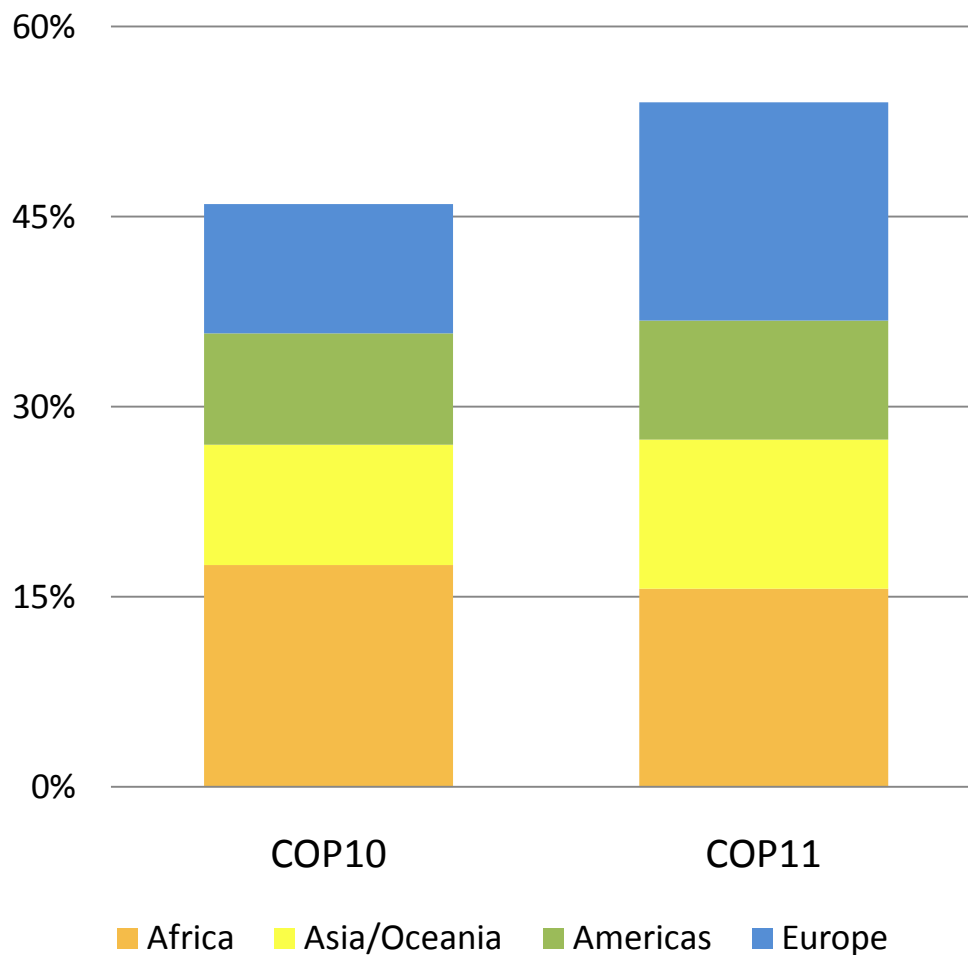
Changwon Declaration brought to the attention of key stakeholders



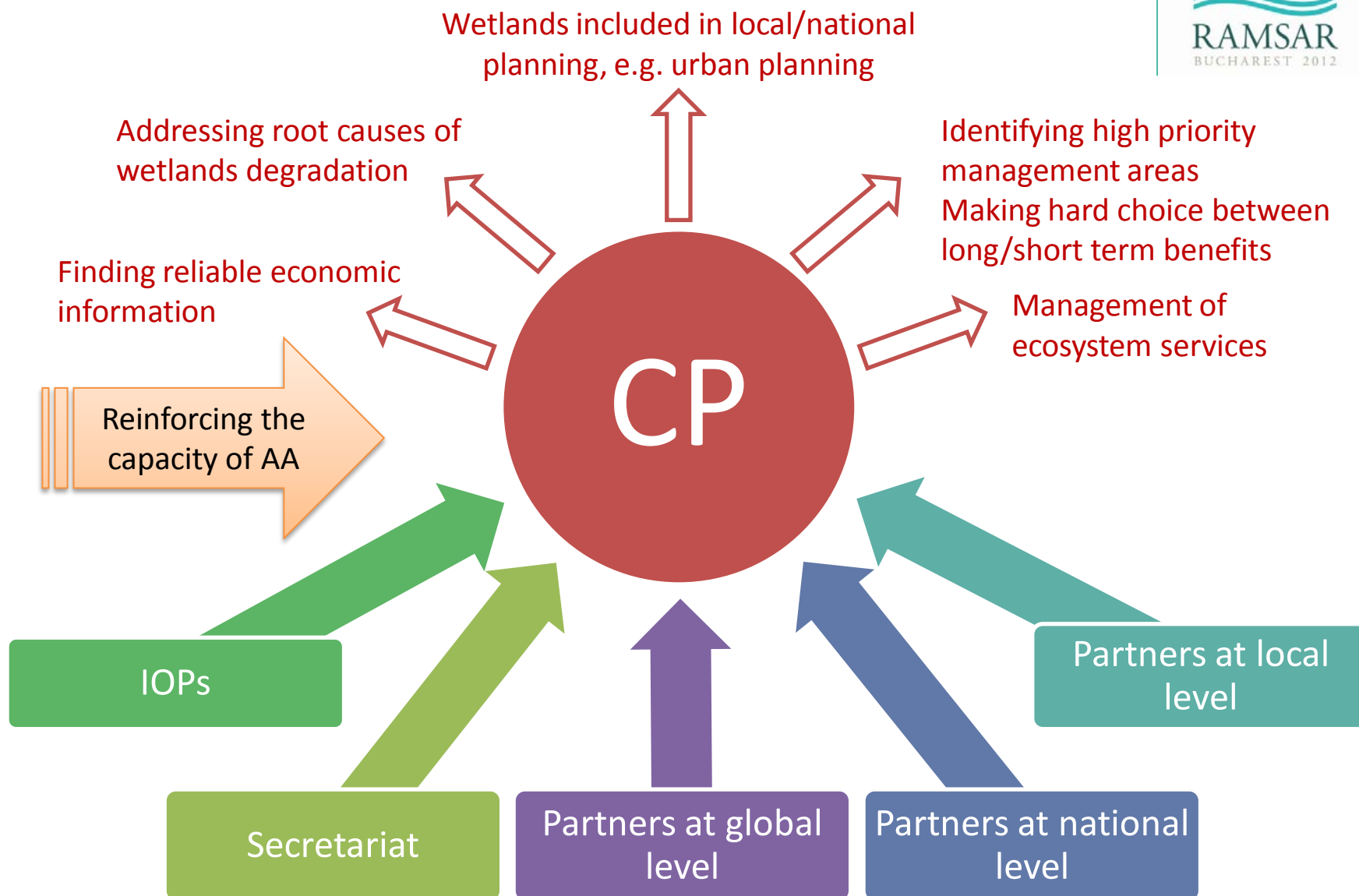
National wetland committees



Percentage of CPs with an operational national wetland committee



Key challenges and future priorities

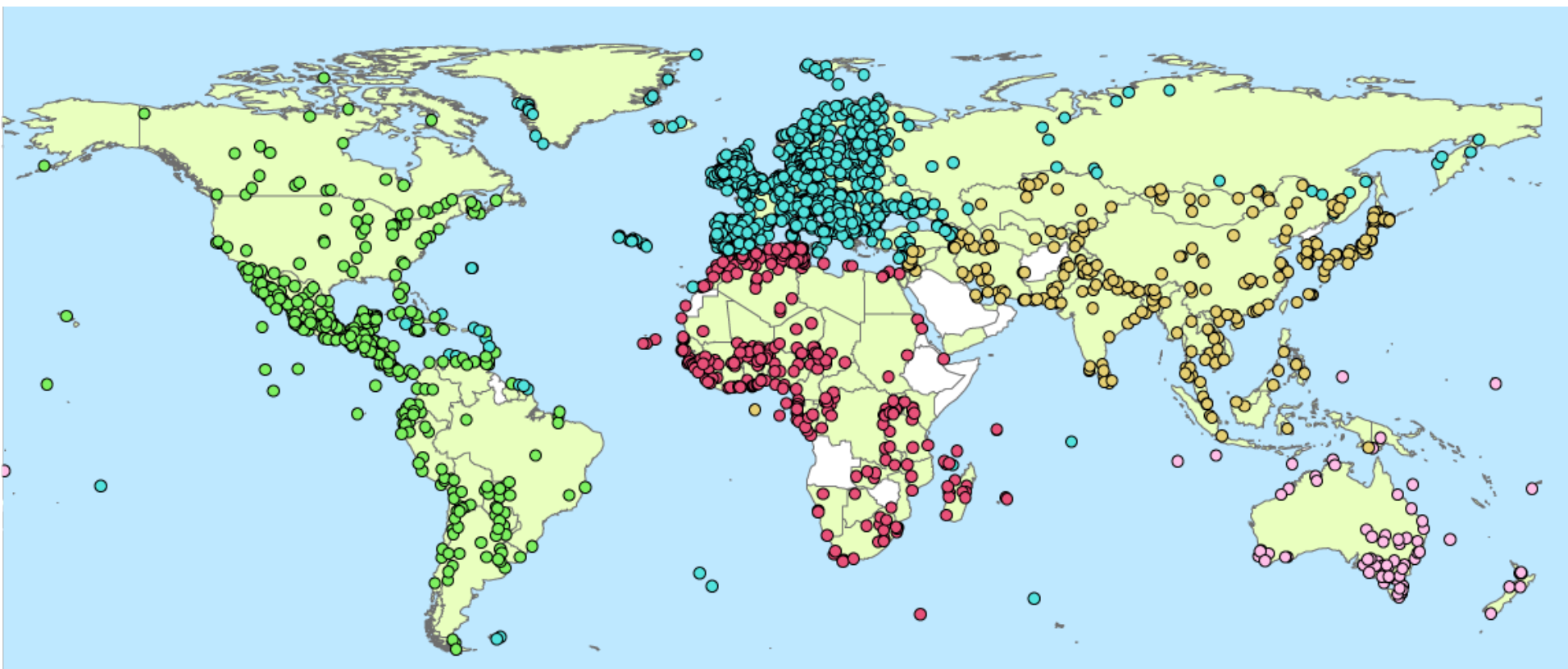


GOAL 2



WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

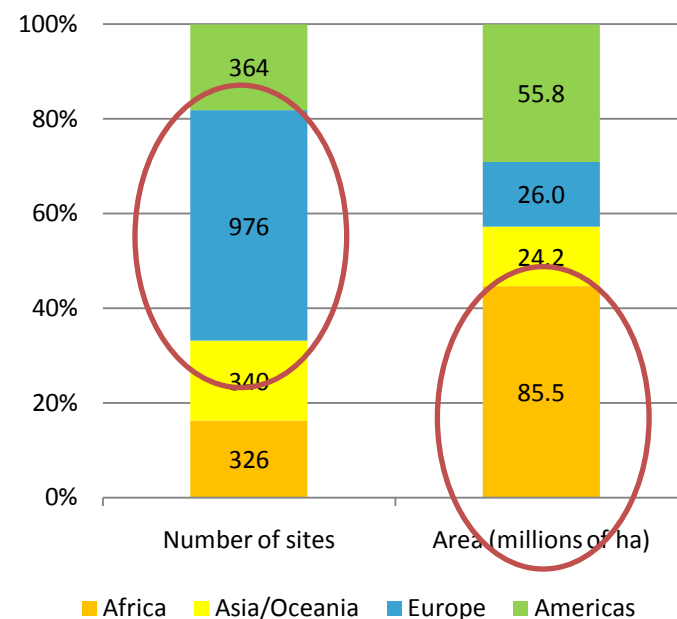
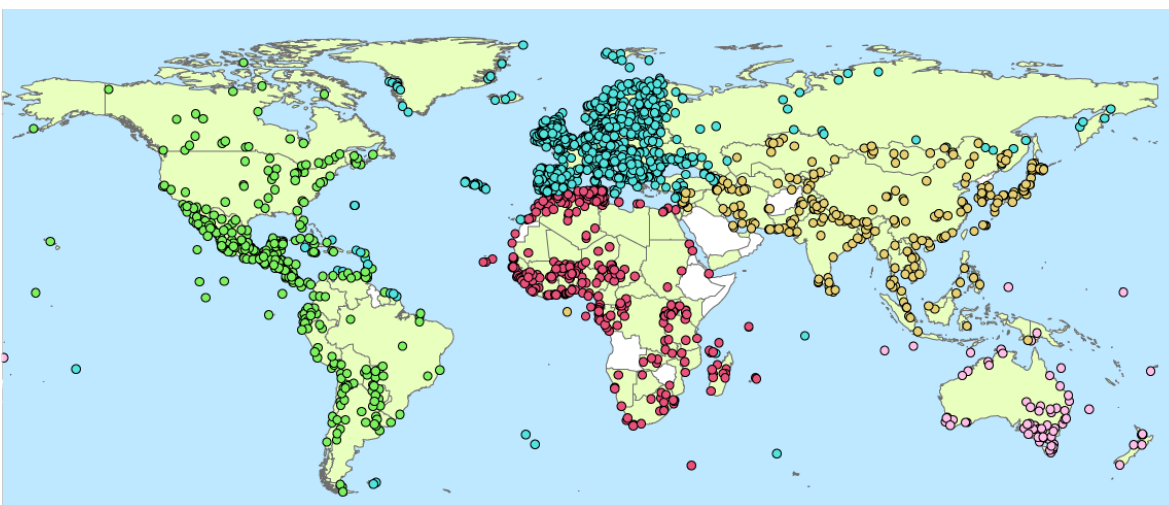
A network in expansion



2040 Sites
hectares

193.4 million

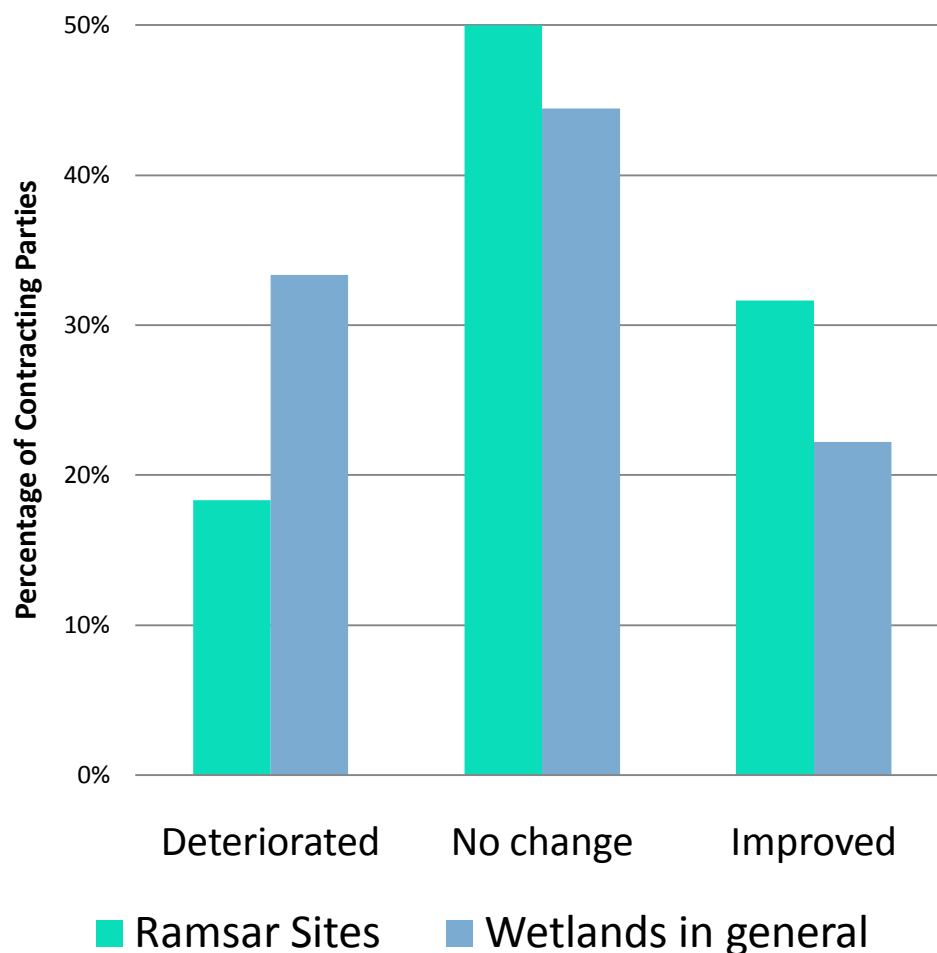
Regional specificities



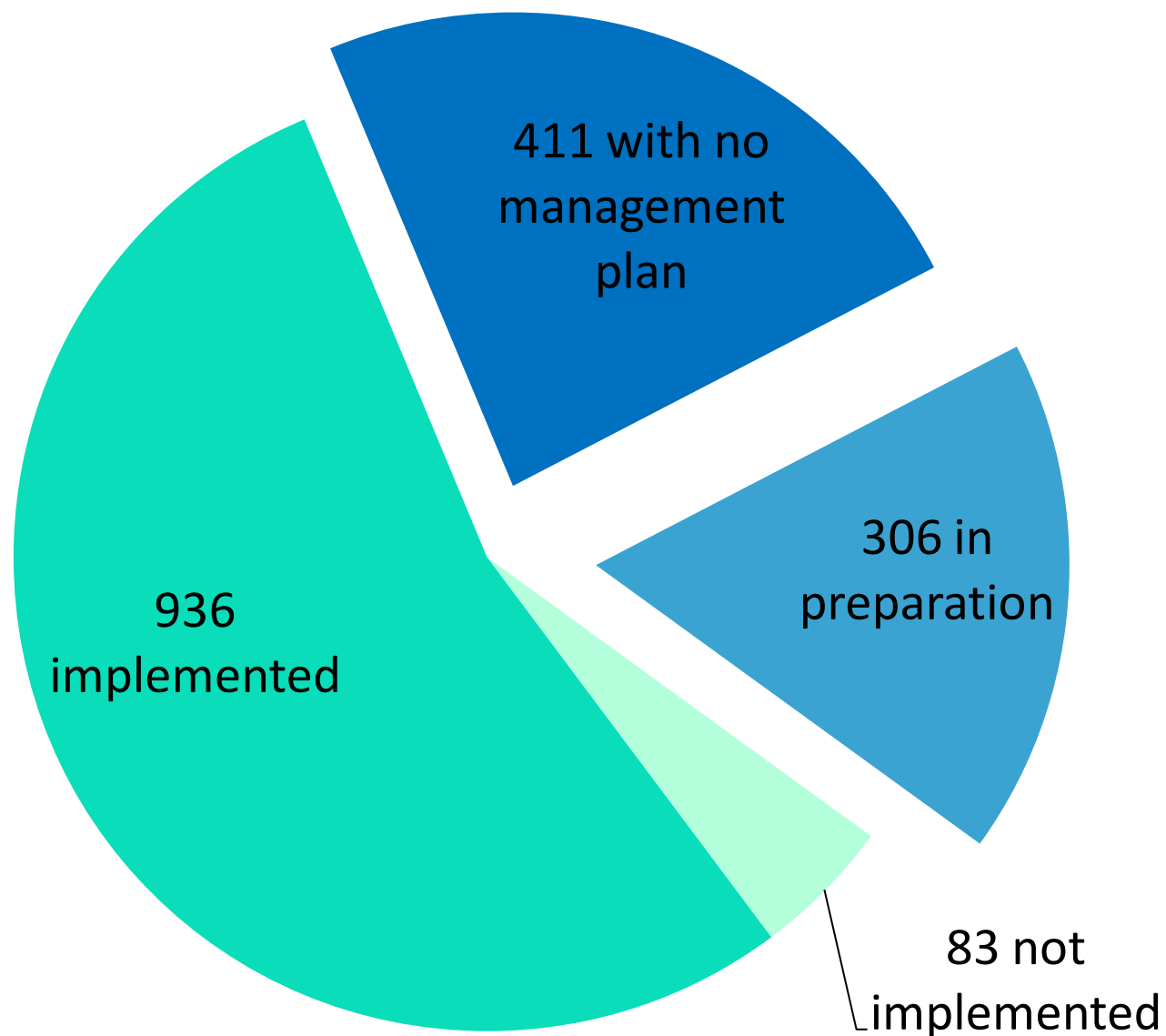
A useful tool



Ecological character of Ramsar Sites versus wetlands in general



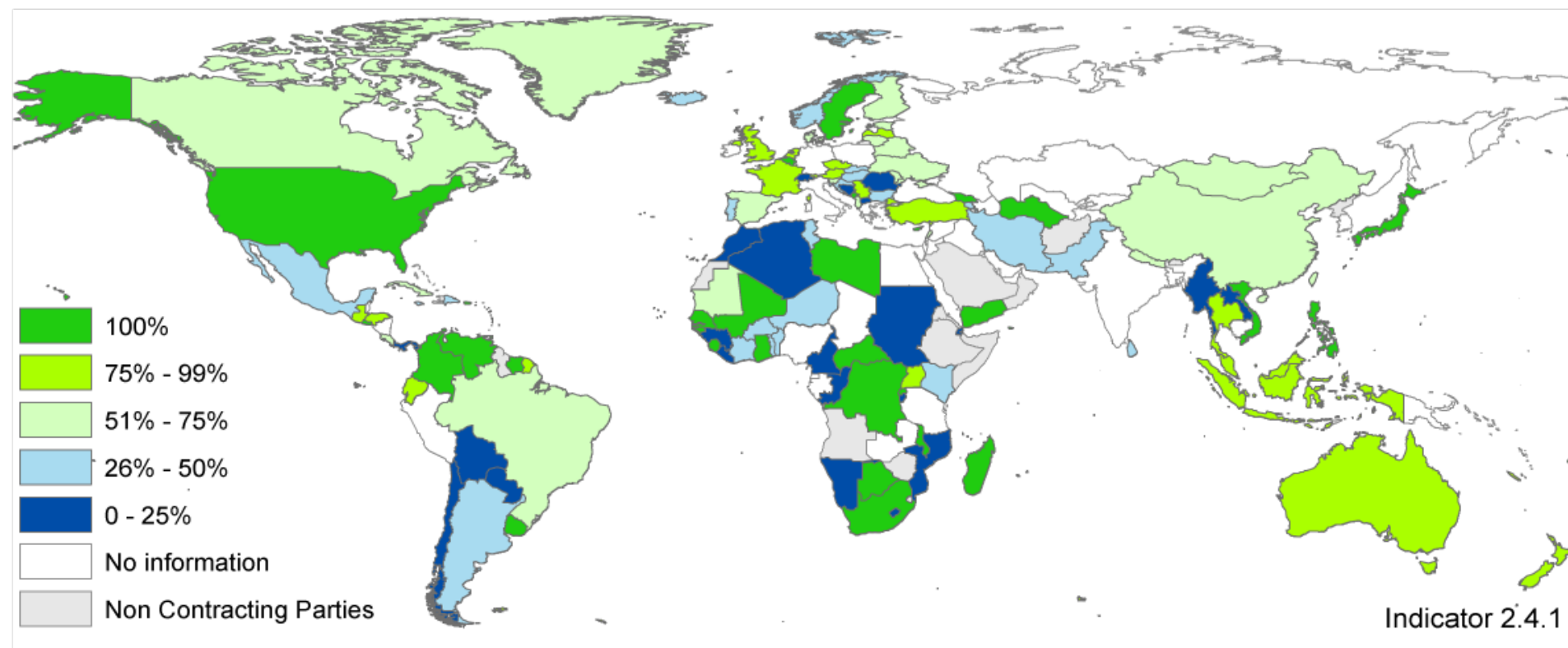
Number of management plans



Management plans



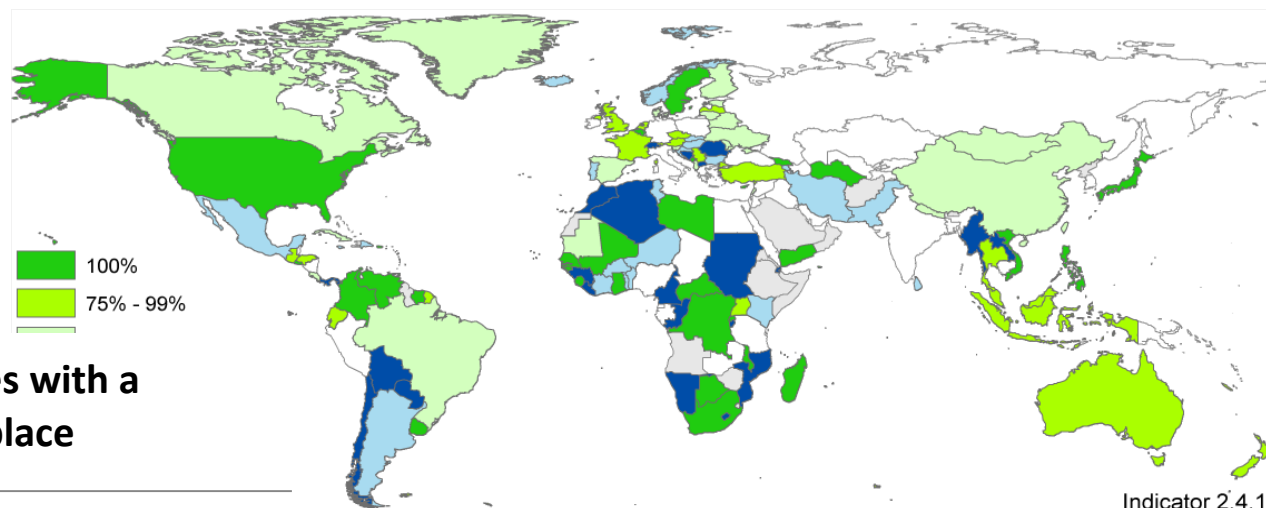
Percentage of Ramsar Sites with a management plan in place



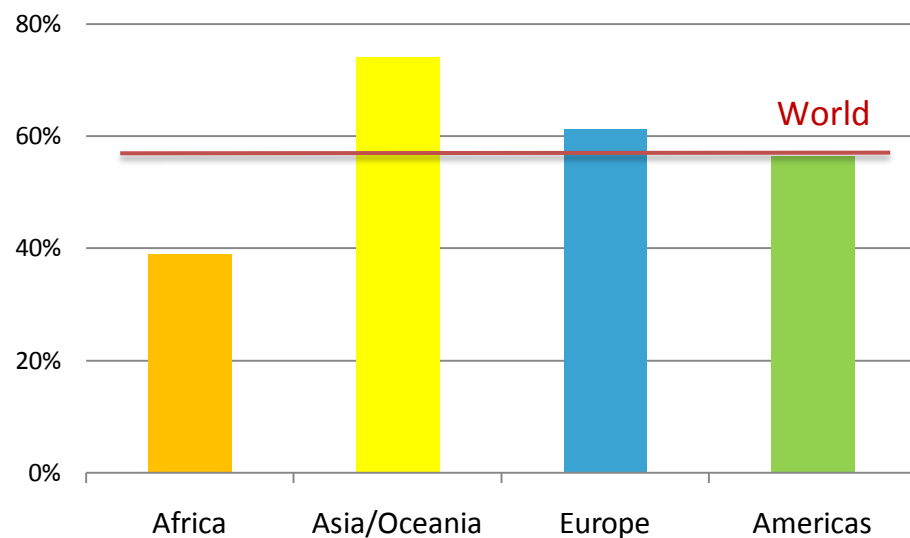
Management plans



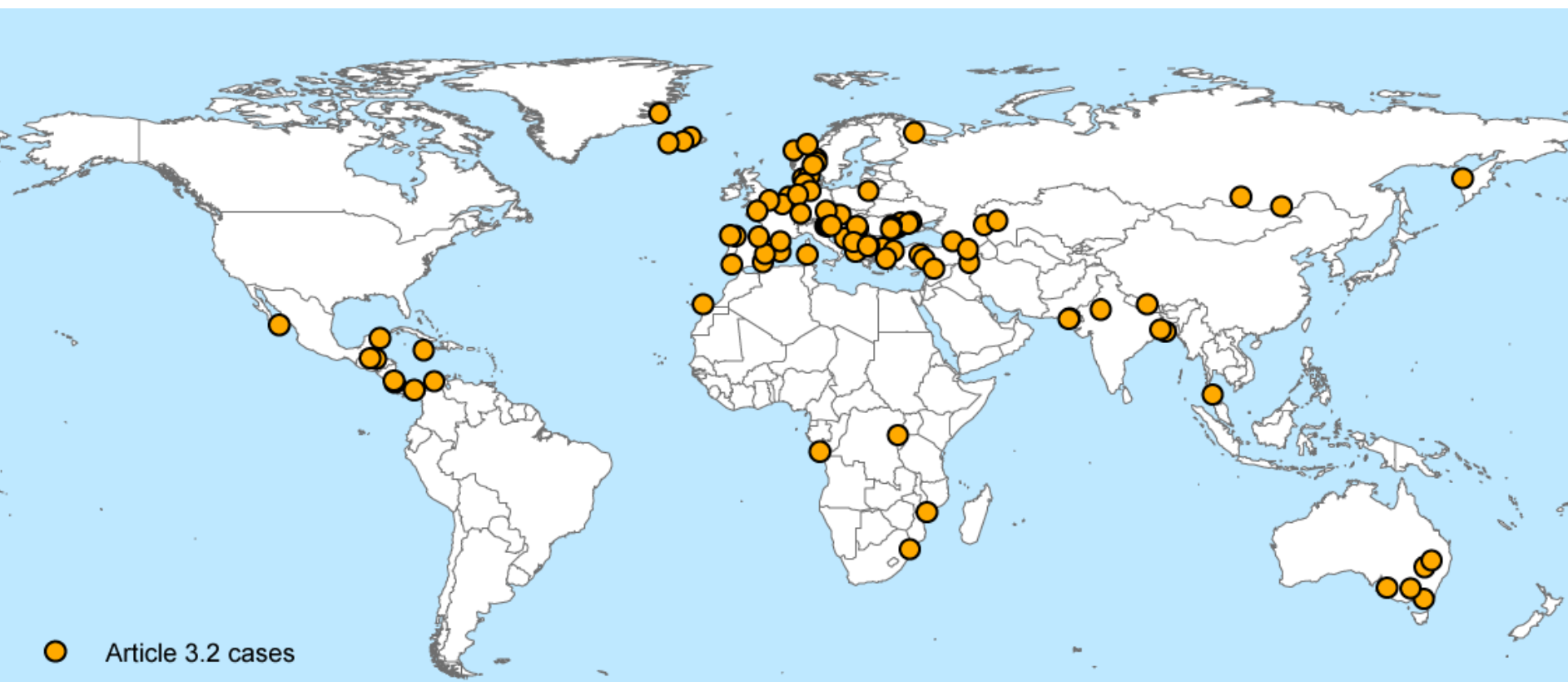
Percentage of Ramsar Sites with a management plan in place



Percentage of Ramsar Sites with a management plan in place



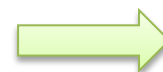
Article 3.2 and Montreux Record



1 new

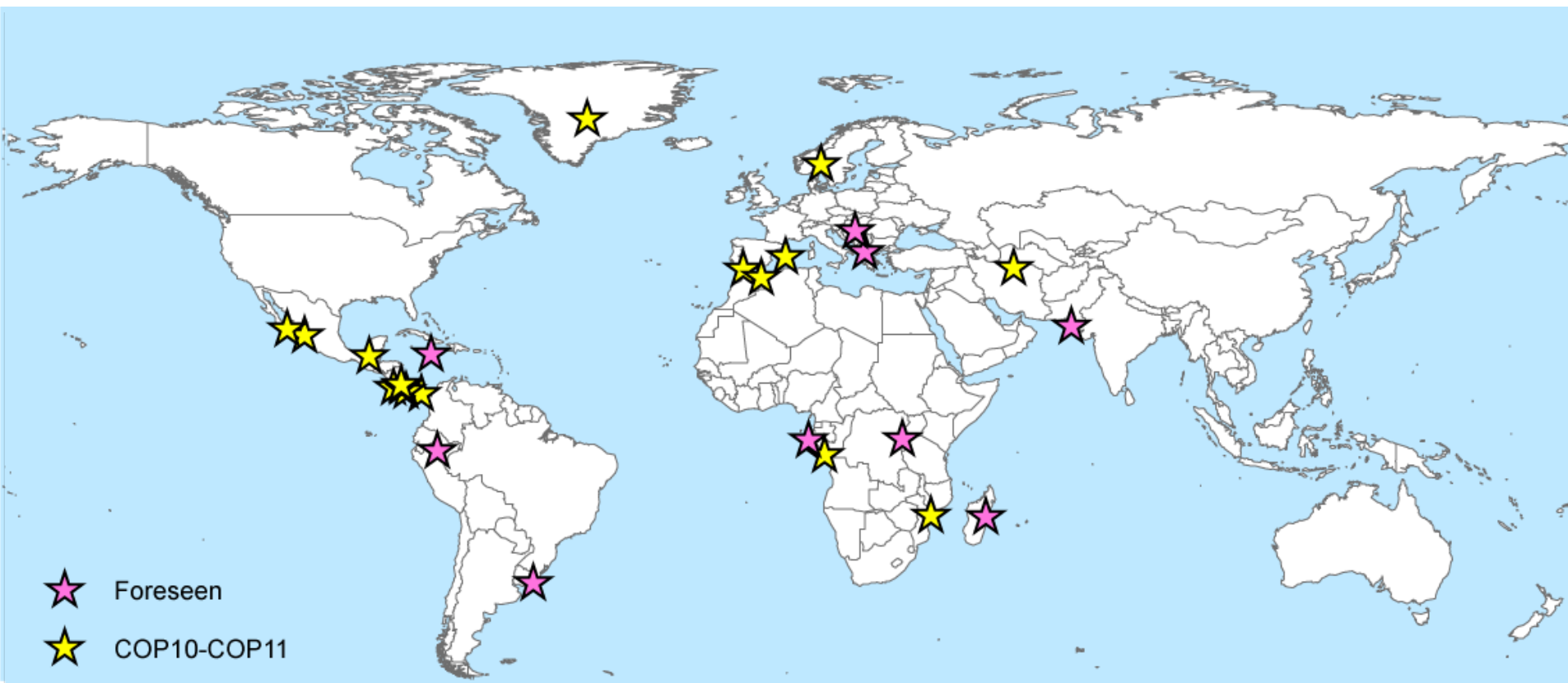


48 sites on
Montreux
record



6 removed

Ramsar Advisory Missions



The most powerful and cost-effective tool to assist CPs taking concrete action to care for wetlands and promote their wise use.

Recommendations



Management Plans

- Adoption & implementation of management plans
- Each Ramsar Site to have a committed agency for the coordination of its management
- All key stakeholders to be involved in the management of Ramsar Sites
- CEPA to be part of the work on Ramsar Sites

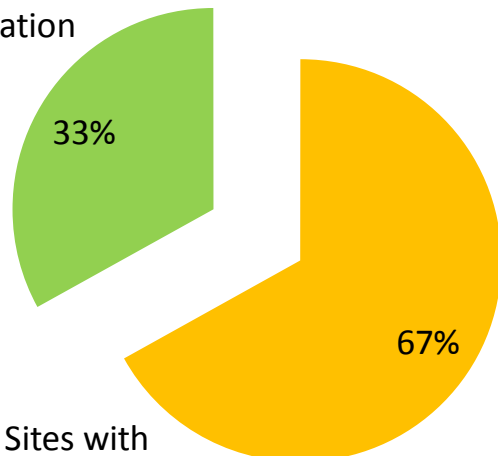
Ramsar Advisory Missions

- High importance for concrete actions on the ground
- Urgent need to mobilize funding and human resources to respond to requests from CPs
- No provision in the core budget to support this action



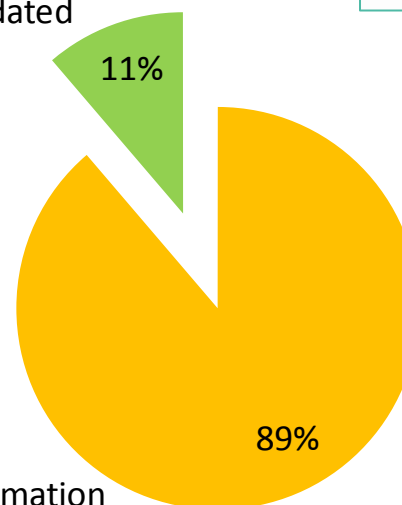
RIS, maps and updated information

Sites with updated information



Sites with outdated information

CPs with updated information

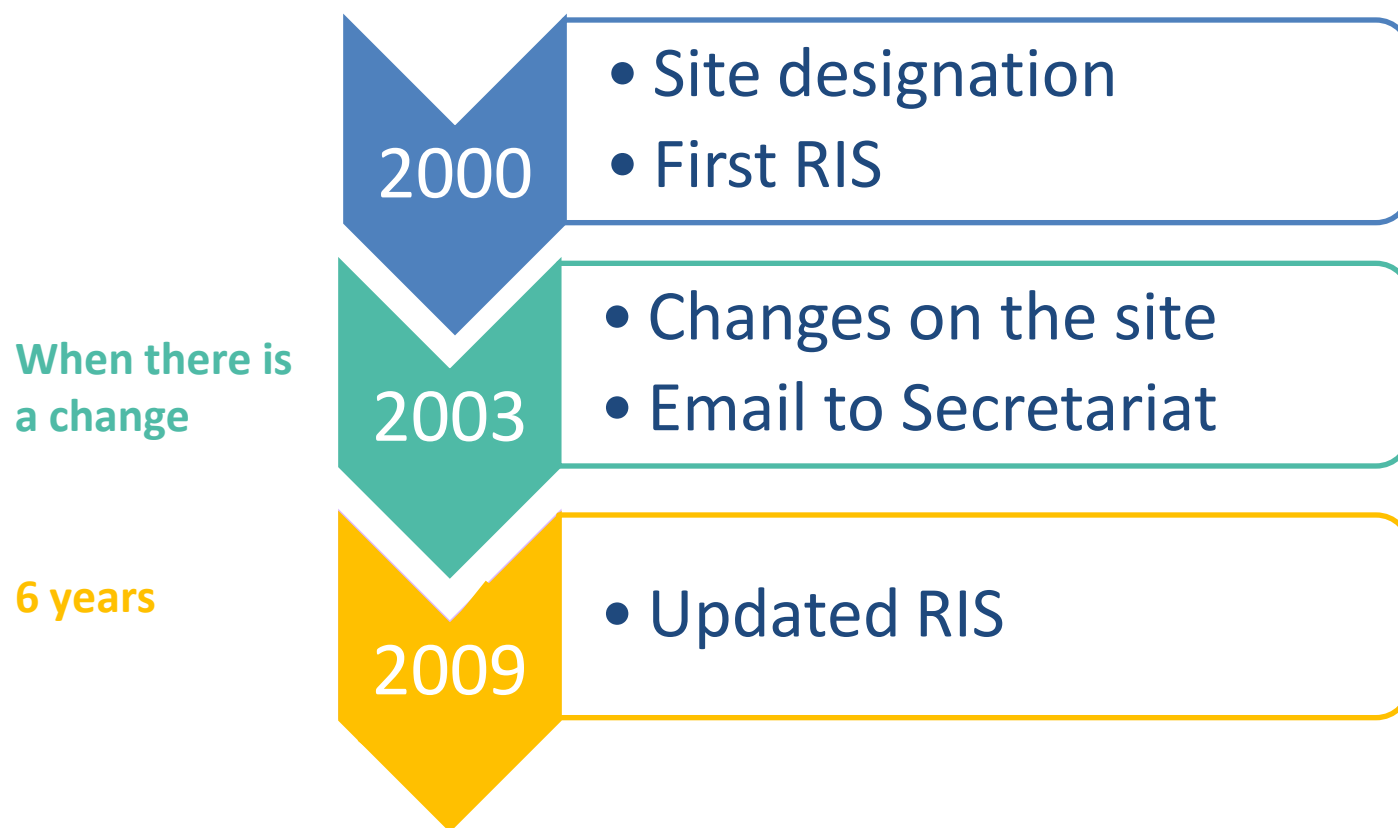


CPs with outdated information

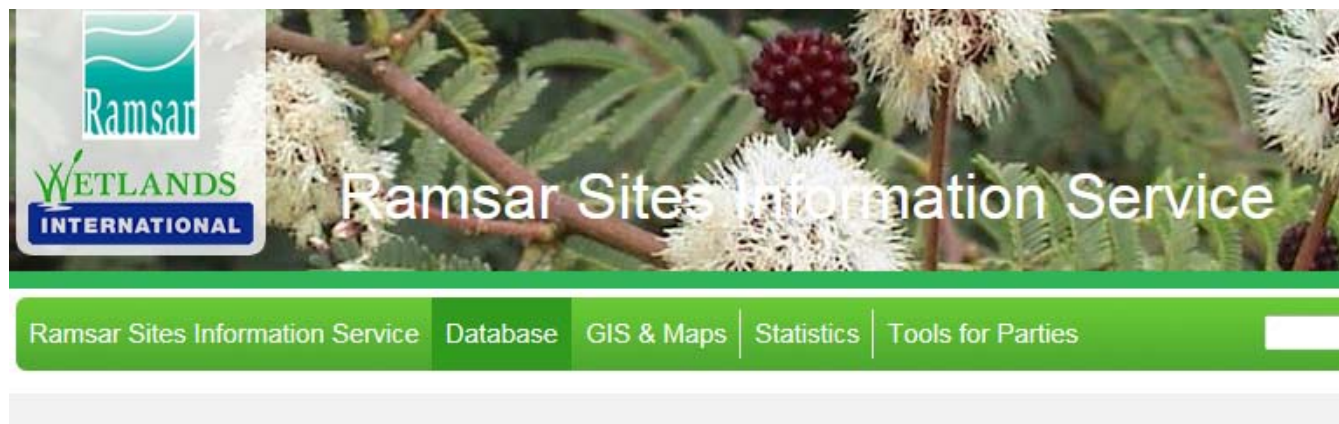
45 Ramsar Sites with no Ramsar Information Sheet and /or no map

Urgent need for accurate information!

Updating Ramsar Site information



Ramsar Sites Information Service



The Ramsar Sites Database: search for sites

[Download this first](#) if you want to view sites in Google Earth.

Find sites to report:

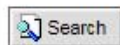
Quickly search the database using one of these fields:

Country:

Site name: or

Ramsar Site No.: or

Wetlands International Site No.:



or



Ramsar Sites Information Service



Member of the Ramsar Convention ☒ Yes

Number of Ramsar Sites designated 29

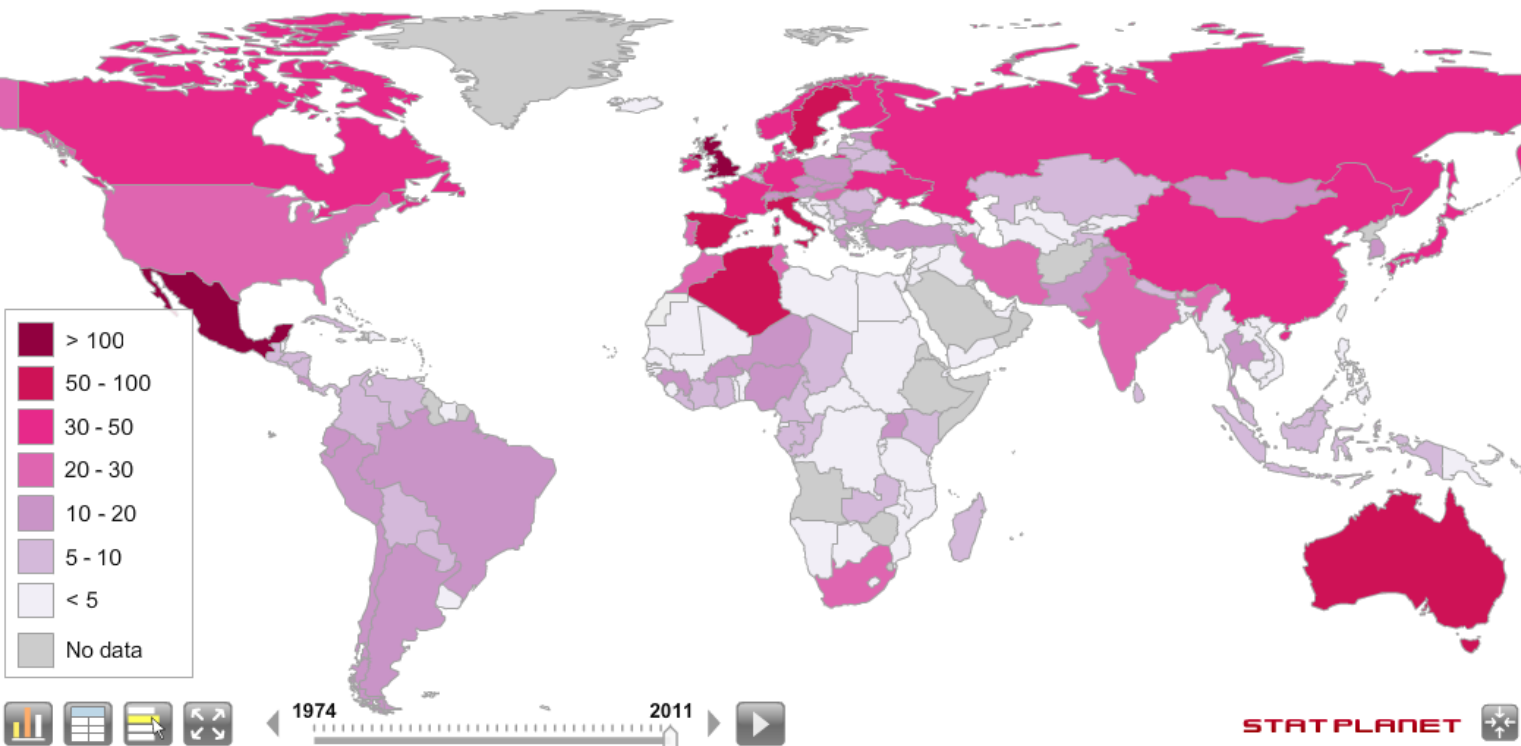
Total Area of Ramsar Sites 1646745 Hectares

Source: Ramsar Contracting Parties

☒ ☐

Countries

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Andorra
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina



Ramsar Sites Information Service



1025, Thames Estuary and Marshes

3UK141

country: UNITED KINGDOM

coordinates: 51°29'00"N 000°35'00"E

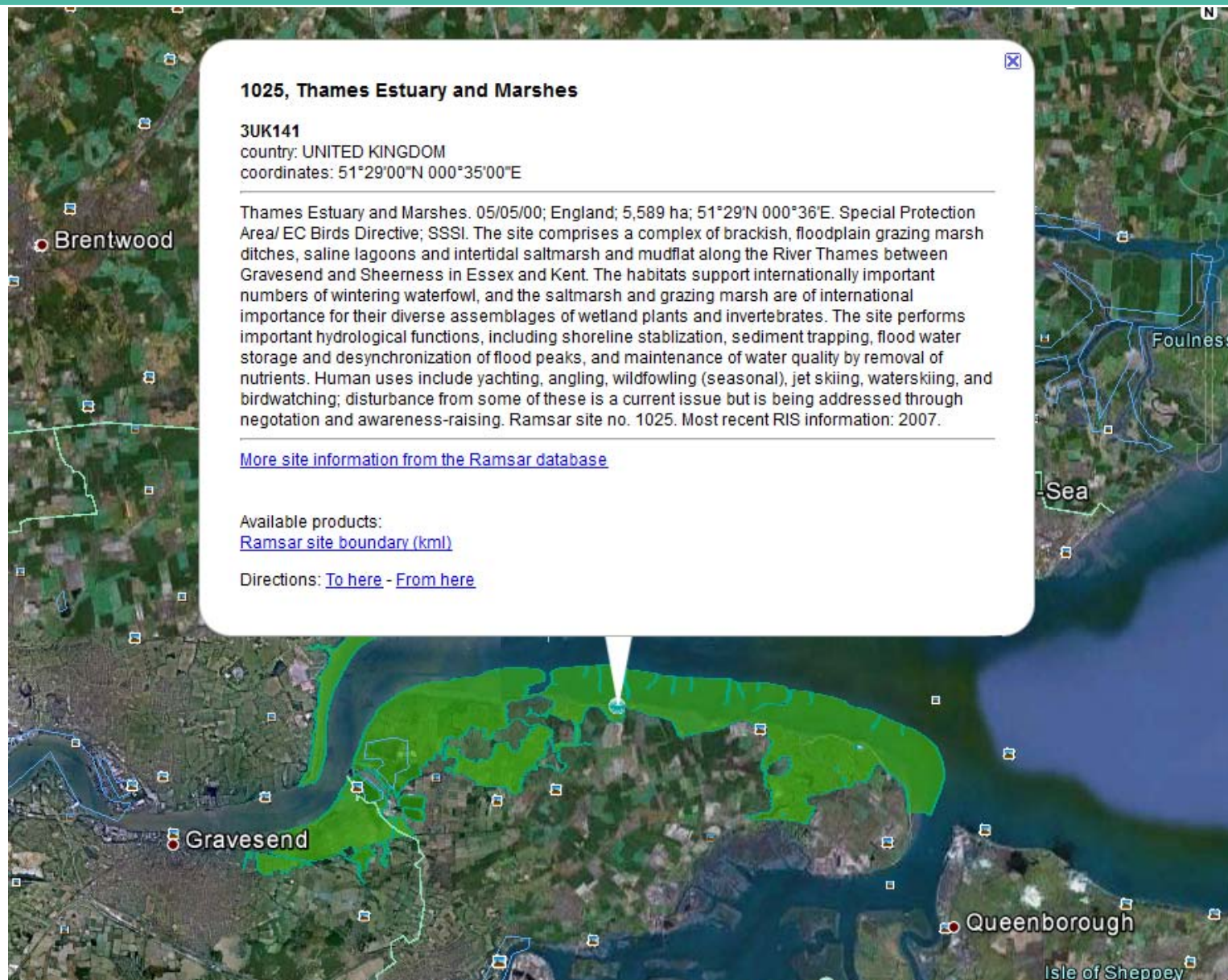
Thames Estuary and Marshes. 05/05/00; England; 5,589 ha; 51°29'N 000°36'E. Special Protection Area/ EC Birds Directive; SSSI. The site comprises a complex of brackish, floodplain grazing marsh ditches, saline lagoons and intertidal saltmarsh and mudflat along the River Thames between Gravesend and Sheerness in Essex and Kent. The habitats support internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl, and the saltmarsh and grazing marsh are of international importance for their diverse assemblages of wetland plants and invertebrates. The site performs important hydrological functions, including shoreline stabilization, sediment trapping, flood water storage and desynchronization of flood peaks, and maintenance of water quality by removal of nutrients. Human uses include yachting, angling, wildfowling (seasonal), jet skiing, waterskiing, and birdwatching; disturbance from some of these is a current issue but is being addressed through negotiation and awareness-raising. Ramsar site no. 1025. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

[More site information from the Ramsar database](#)

Available products:

[Ramsar site boundary \(kml\)](#)

Directions: [To here](#) - [From here](#)



RSIS - Technology challenges



- Outdated software
- Risk of the database failing increasingly high.
- Not all information can be held
- Necessary functionalities missing (e.g. time-series records)

Recommendations



- it is now essential that the Database is redeveloped in modern software
- the Secretariat is working with Wetlands International to plan and prepare for this
- an implementation plan will be communicated to the Parties in due course.

GOAL 3



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Our contribution to global processes



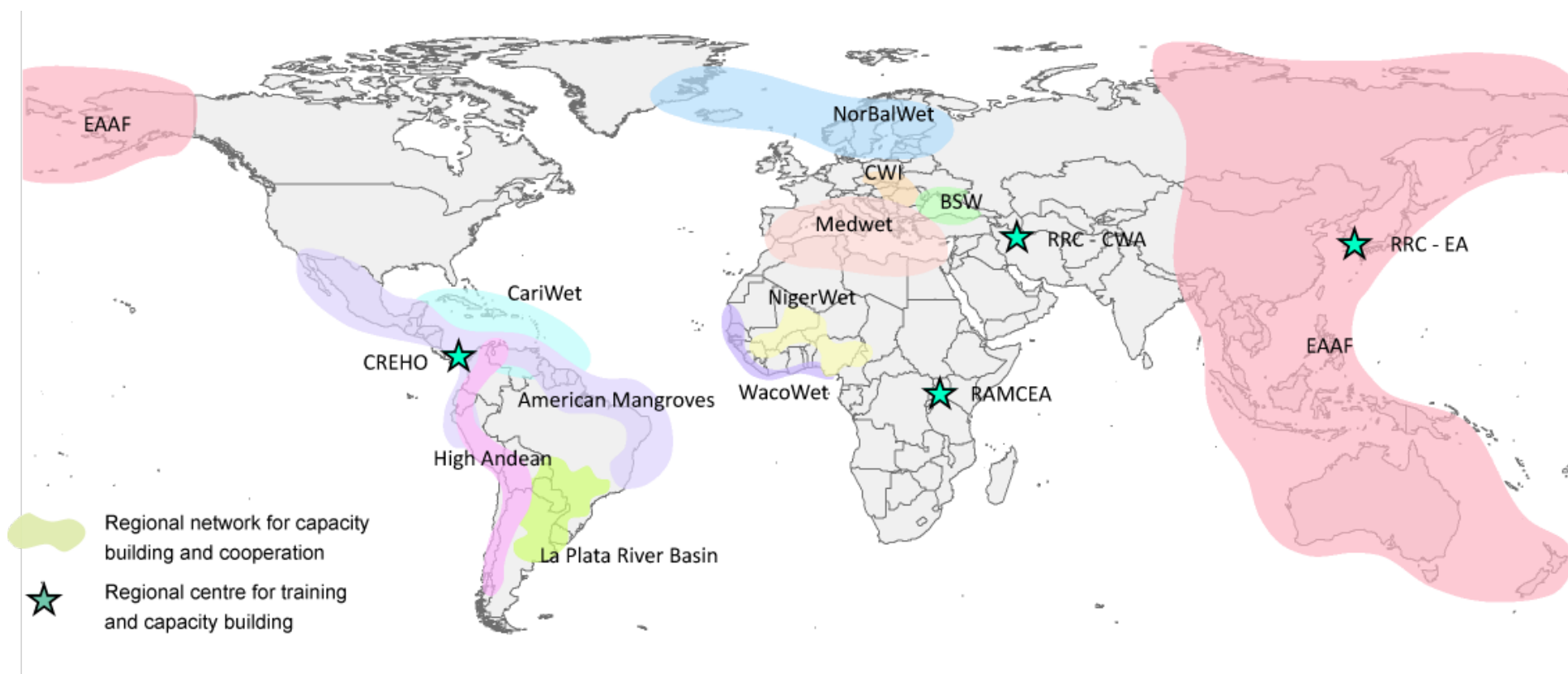
- Preparations for Rio+20
- UN-Water
- Environmental Management Group (EMG)
- Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)
- Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- UN Global Compact
- Global Partnership for Oceans (World Bank)
- UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA)
- UN Environmental and Social Sustainability
- PlanetWorkshops on sustainable development and environment

Increasing cooperation

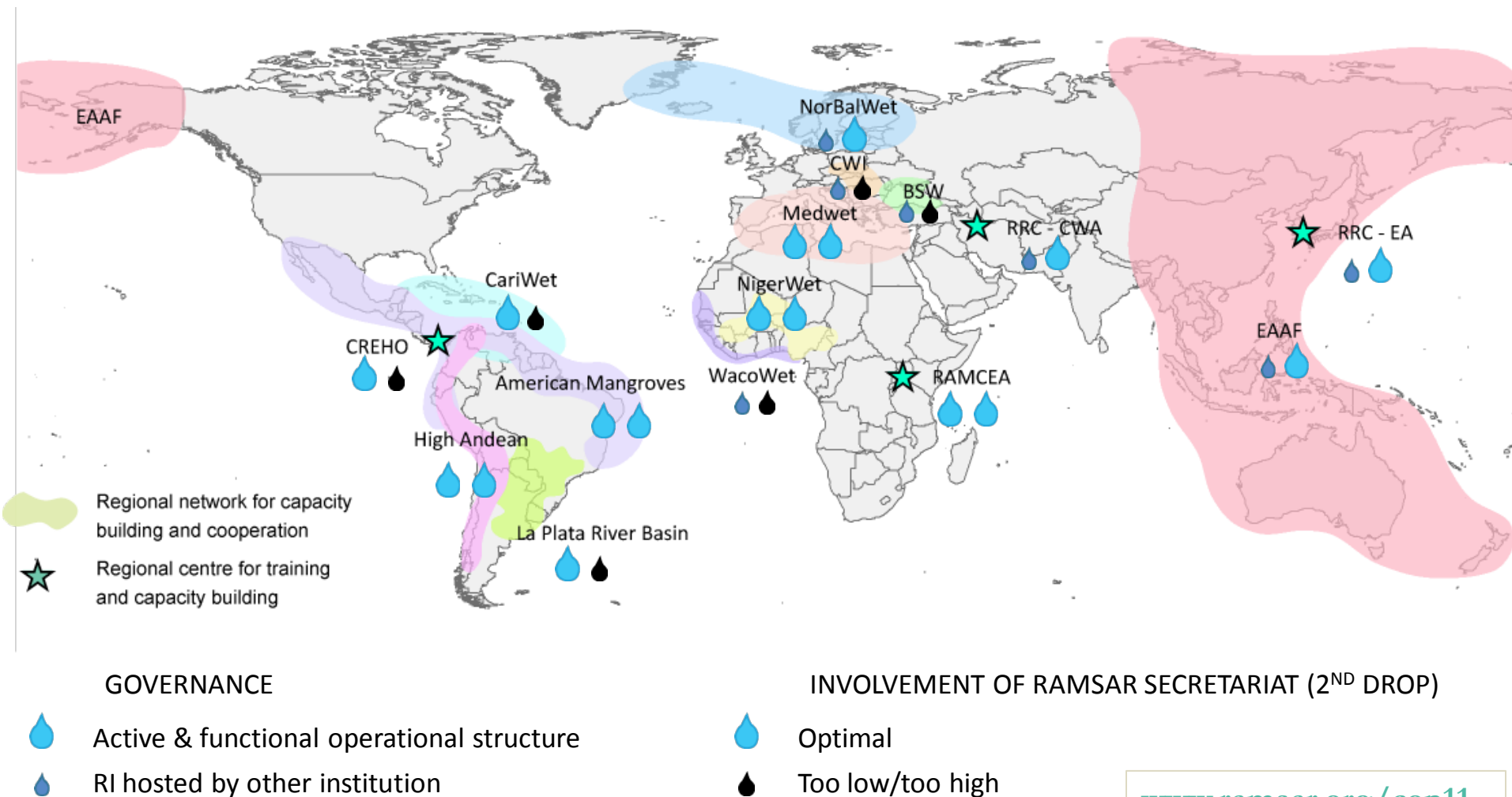


- UNEP
- World Health Organization
- World Bank
- UNESCO, World Heritage
- UN-Water
- UN World Tourism Organization (WTO)
- Secretariat of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- Organization of American States (OAS)
- CBD, CITES, CMS,
- UNECE Convention
- Ramsar International Organization Partners (IOPs)
- World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)
- Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)
- Society of Wetland Scientists
- Ducks Unlimited (USA)
- Stetson University College of Law (Florida, USA)
- ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
- Danone Group and Star Alliance

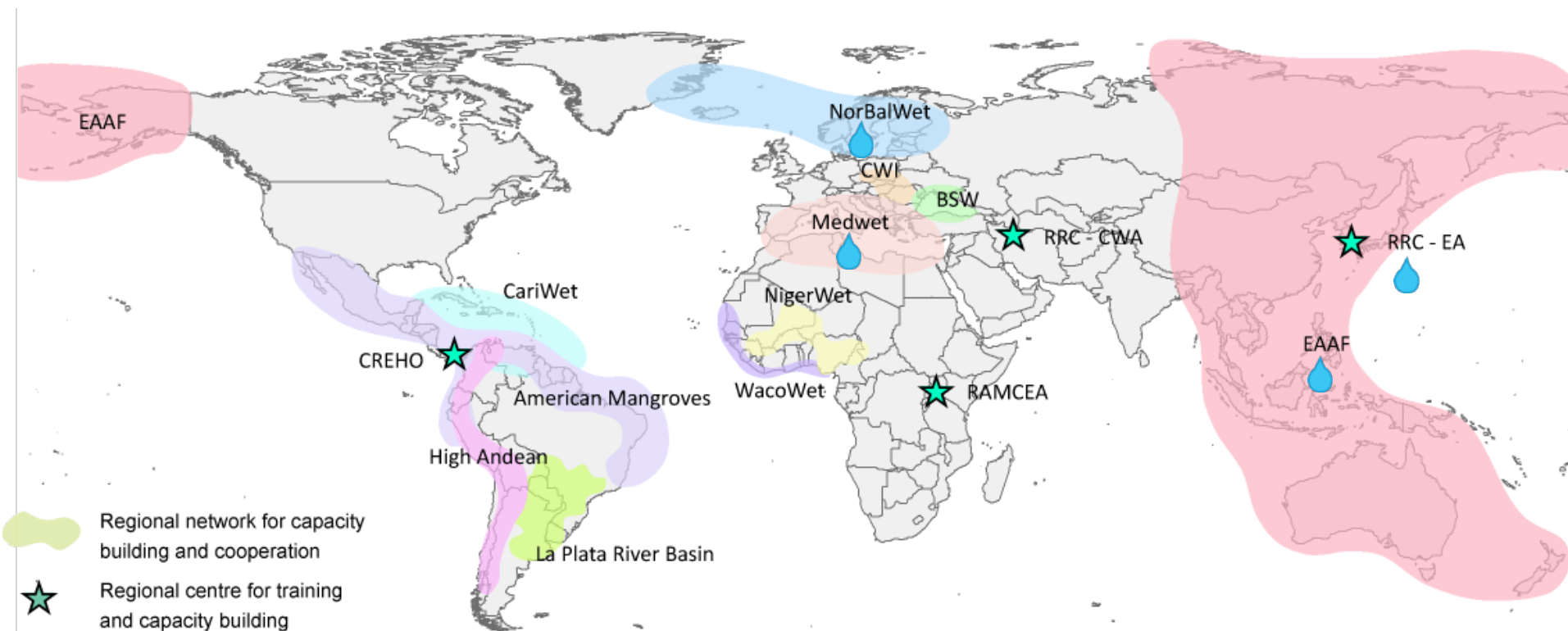
Regional Initiatives



Institutional capacity



Financial capacity

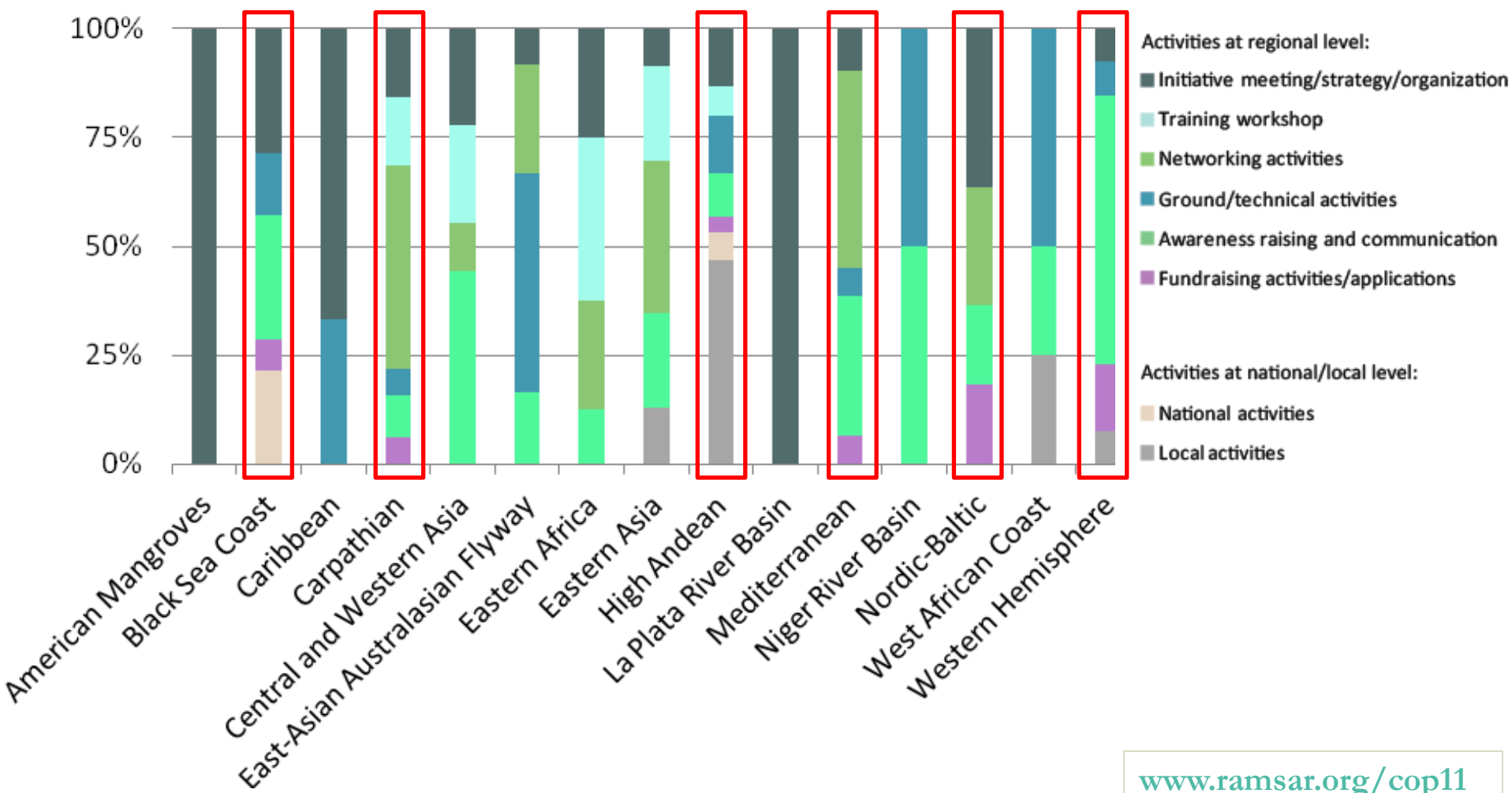


Financially self-sustaining (no funds from Ramsar)

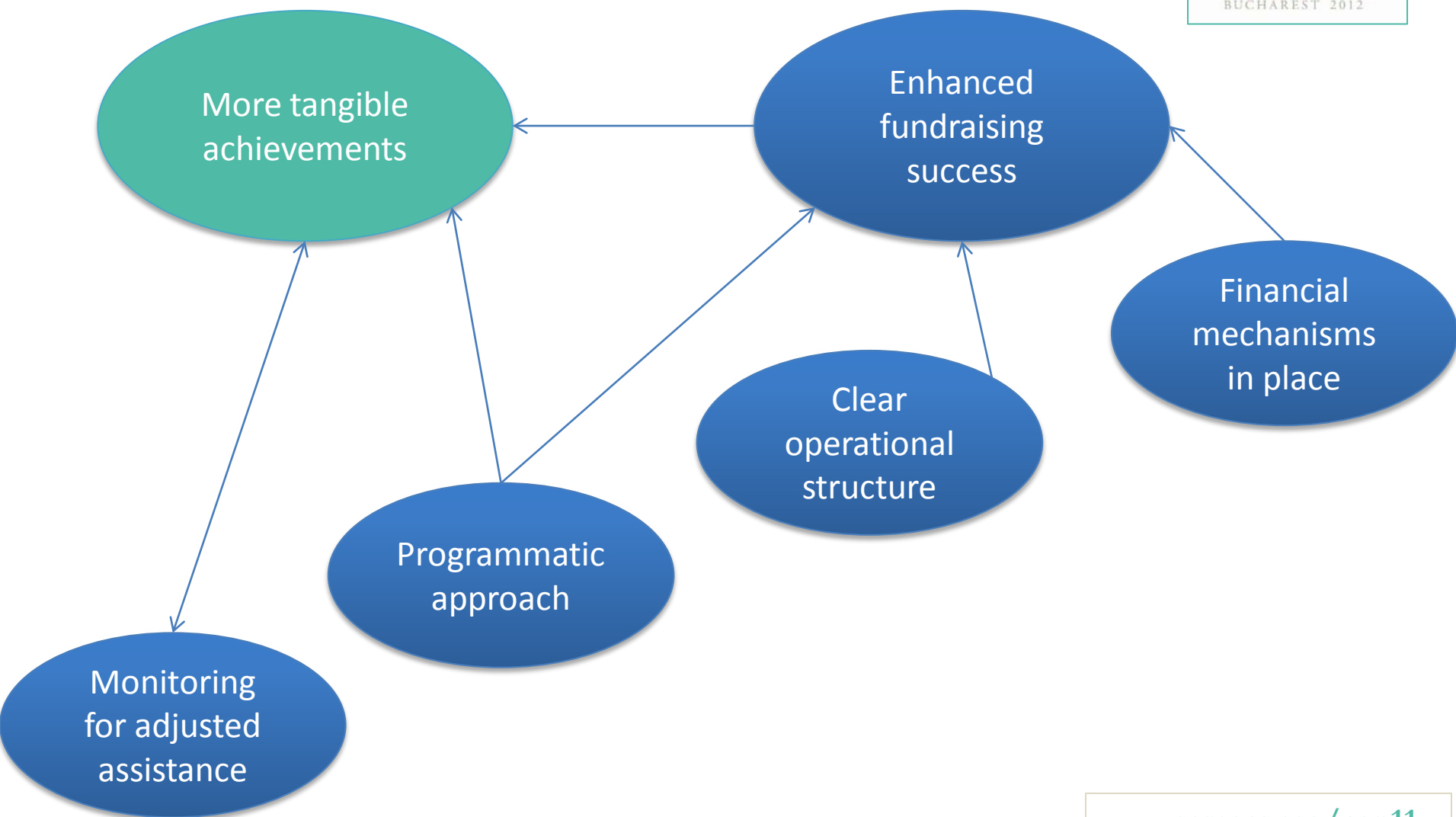
Activities delivered



Profile of the activities reported in annual reports of each regional initiative for the period 2009-2011



Recommendations



Secretariat renewed commitments



- enhancing our support to all Regional Initiatives
- Willing to assist in supporting activities similar the proposed project under the Ramsar High Andean Regional Initiative
- Strengthen collaboration with partners such as UNEP as GEF implementing agency and the GEF Secretariat.

GOAL 4



INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

CEPA – Future priorities



Continuing to look for funding to support CEPA National Focal Point workshops



Assistance to Regional Centers in strengthening their training and capacity building skills.



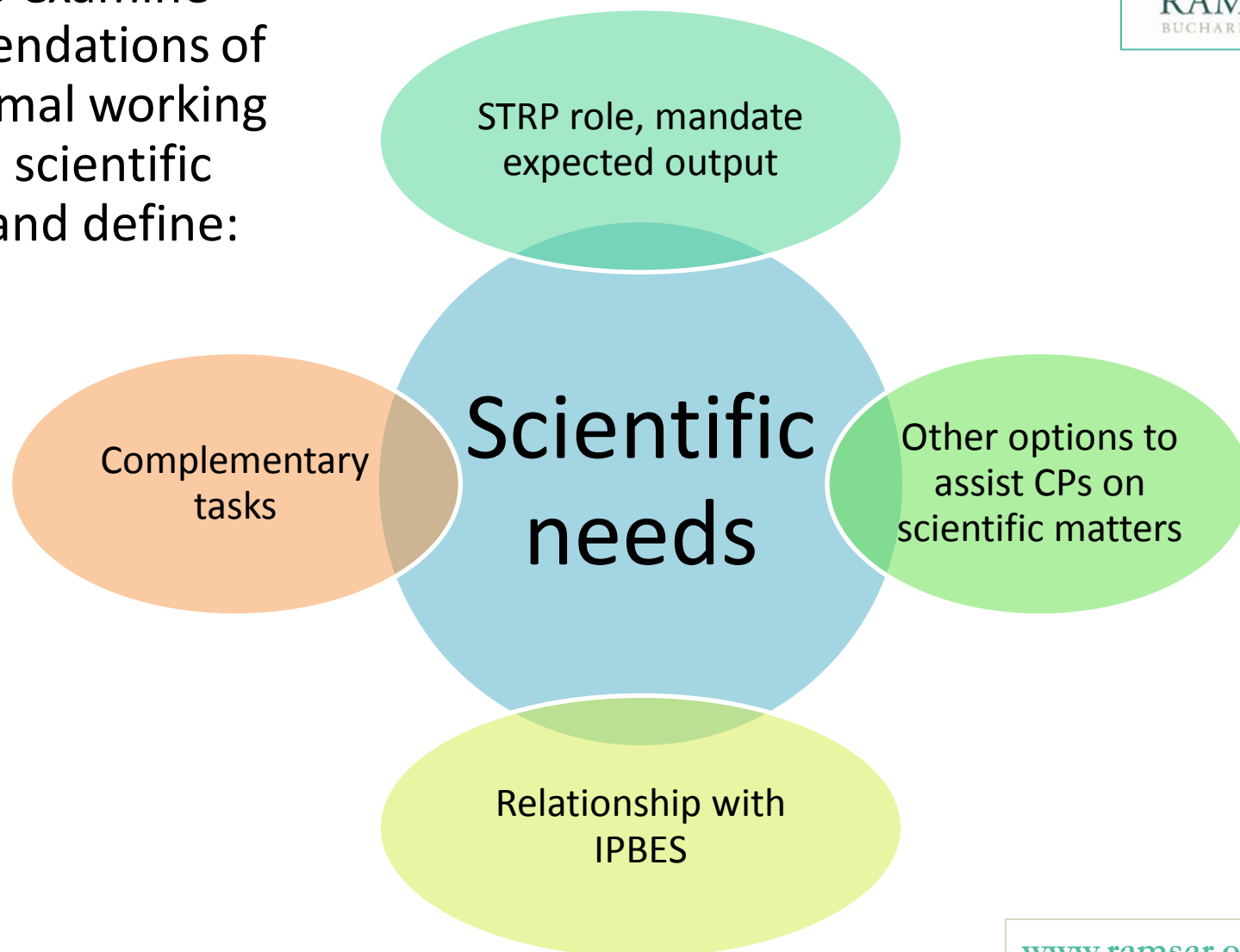
Consolidating and developing social media tools as well as the regular tools



STRP – Future priorities

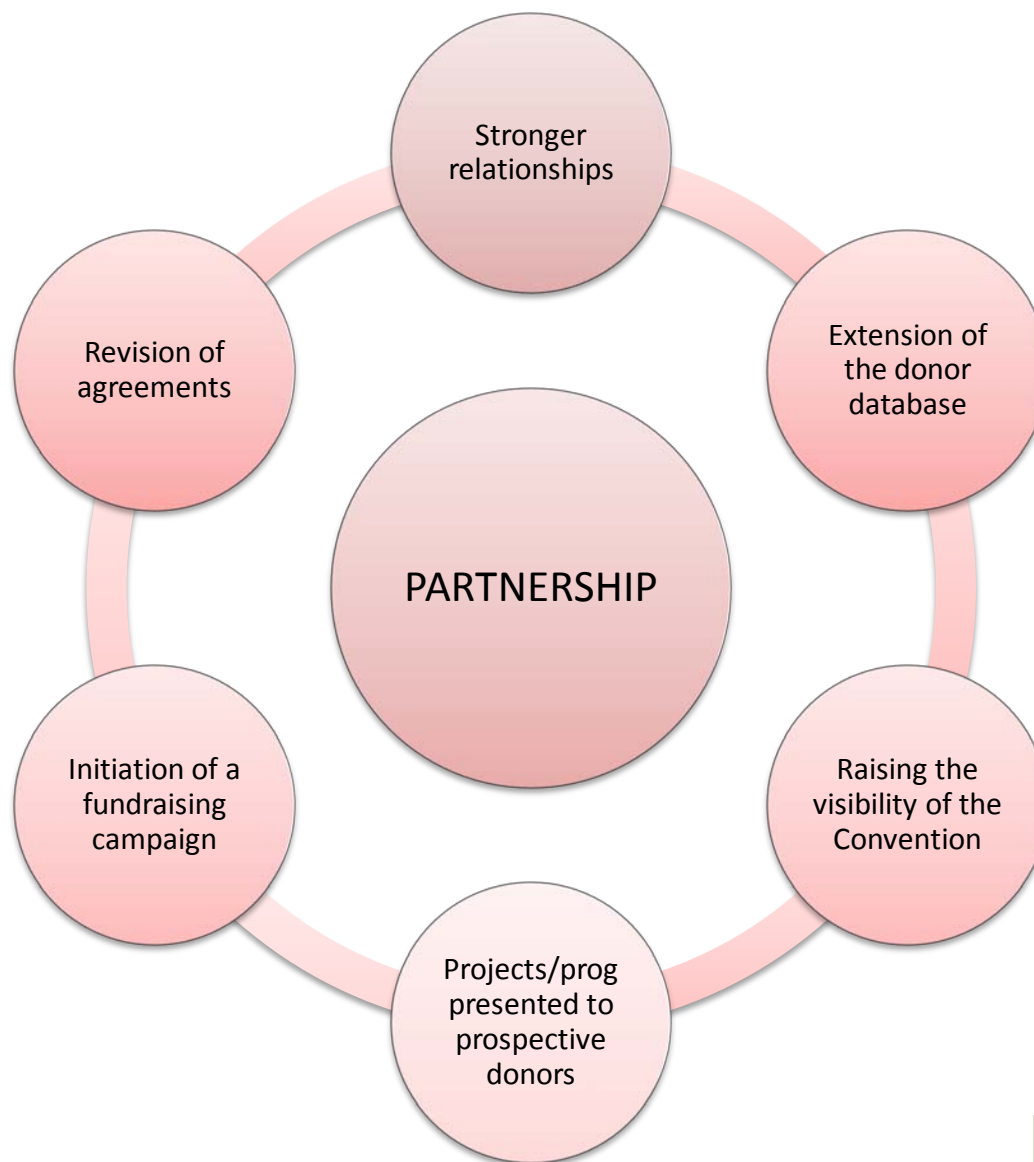


COP11 to examine recommendations of the informal working group on scientific matters and define:





Partnership Coordination – Actions taken



Partnership Coordination – Actions taken



- Initial discussions with 4 important donors
- An Agreement with IUCN-US to accept gifts from US citizens, companies or foundations for Ramsar Convention programmes and projects.
- Details of the progress made provided in the Strategic Framework for Partnerships (DOC. 18)



Priorities actions at global level



Strategic planning

Enhance
partnership

Work on
common vision:
VISION 40+

Address shared
challenges

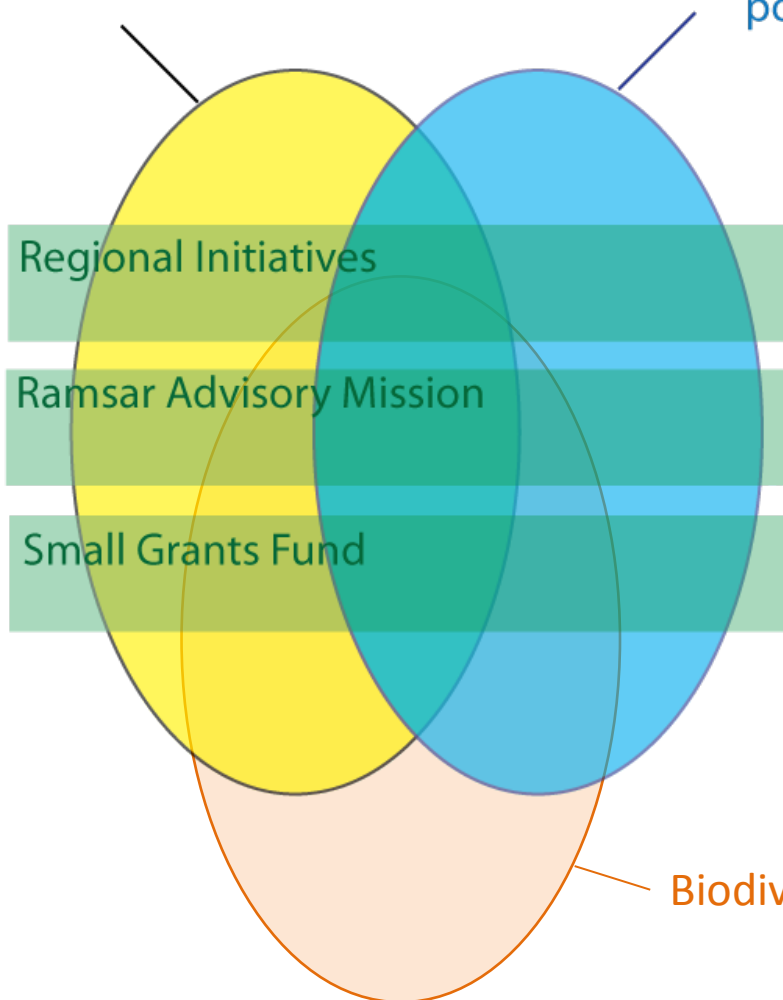
Ramsar Strat.
Plan 2016-2022



Programmatic Approach: the key?

Climate change adaptation
and mitigation

Water and food security,
poverty reduction



Programmes

Ramsar tools

Biodiversity conservation and wise use



Management challenges



Secretariat

Overall growth
of the
Convention

Capacity

Core budget

Voluntary funding

COPs expectations

More CPs

More Ramsar Sites

...

- Need to right balance between COPs expectations and capacity of the Secretariat
- Finding voluntary funding in difficult economic trends
- Covering the cost of the participation in COP11 of Contracting Parties from the DAC List



Secretariat – future priorities



Unpaid contributions from 2011 and earlier

- One third of the CPs
- 736 000CHF

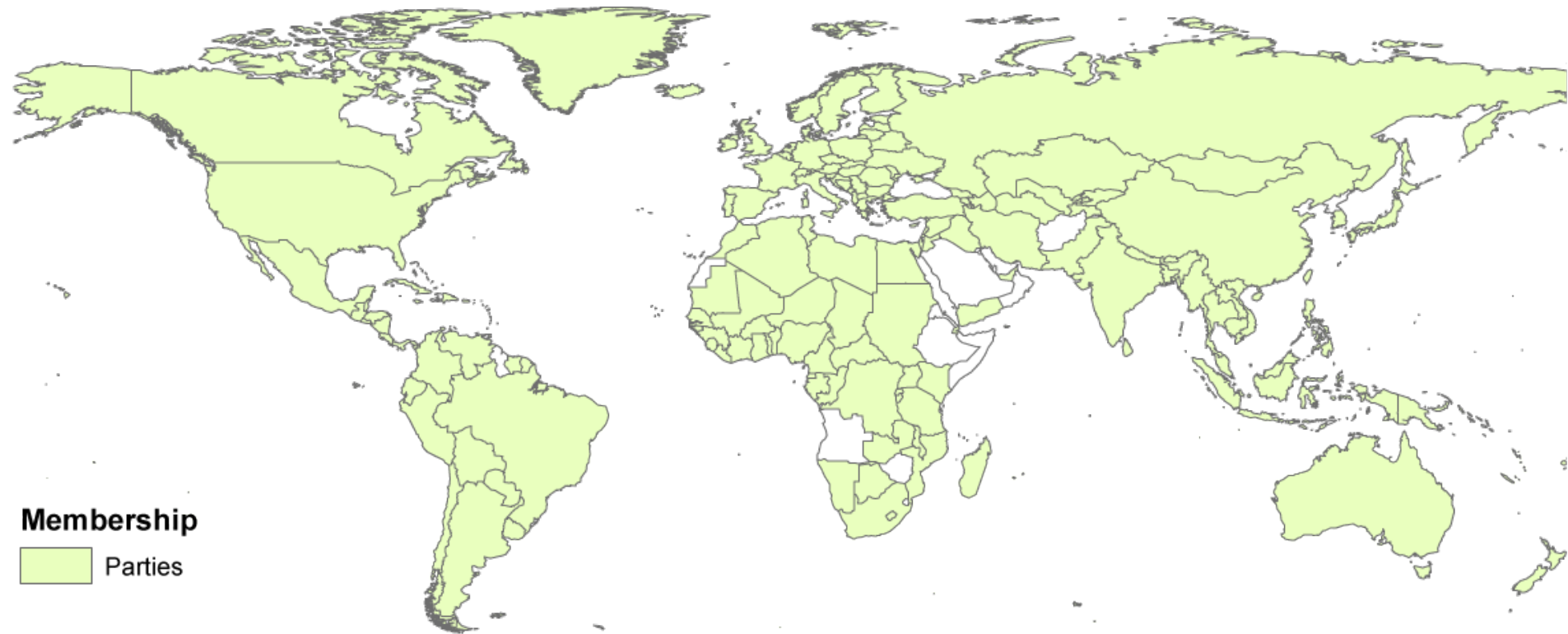
Extra capacity needed for

- IT
- Legal advice
- Social media and web

GOAL 5



MEMBERSHIP





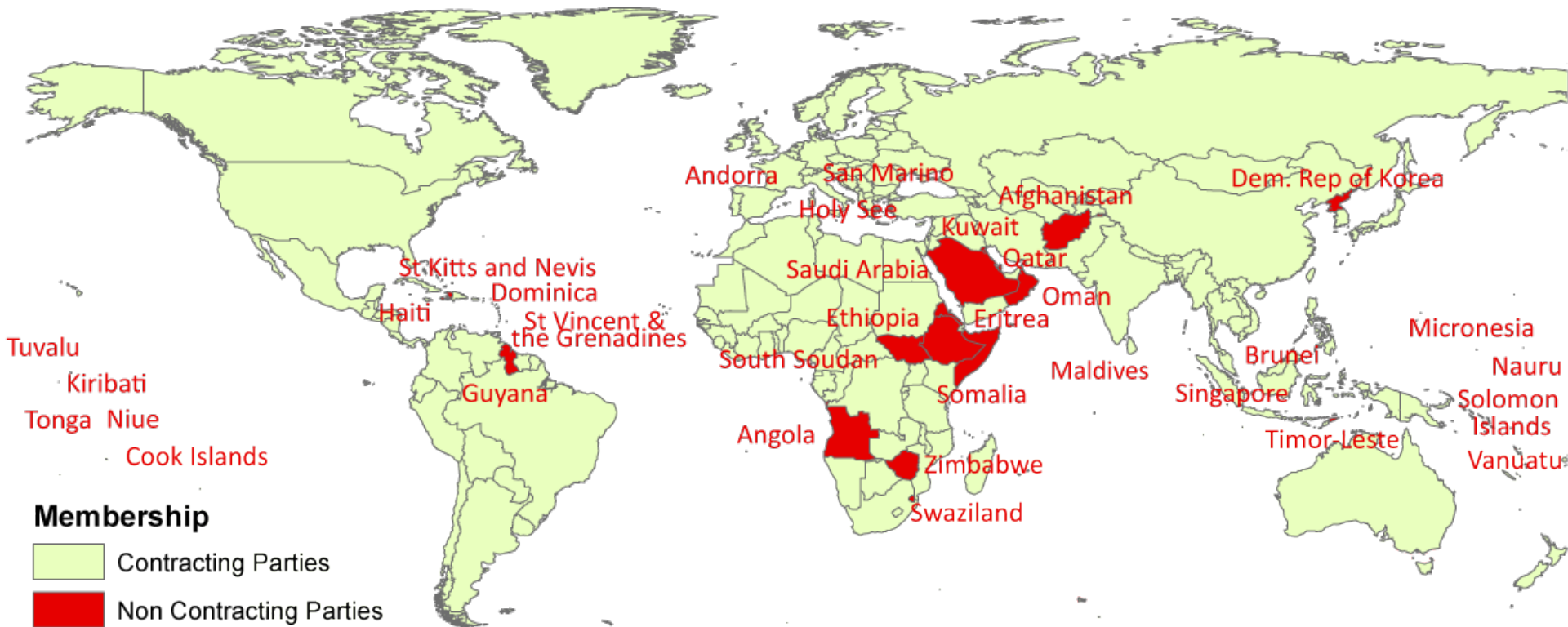
Congratulations to the 4 new!





First environmental Convention...

... Last for universal membership?



162 Parties versus 194 UN Members

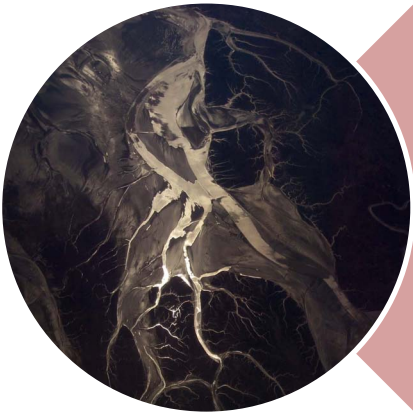


CONCLUSIONS

Two key questions



Is the Convention relevant to all stakeholders and at which level (global/national/local)?



How to improve this relevance?



A key goal/challenge of the Convention



PERSUASION



Key recommendations



Enhancing the relevance of the
Convention

Strengthening our
collaborations

- Encouraging collective action through urban planning
- Encouraging cross-sectoral actions at river basin level
- Developing/supporting existing networks on water, biodiversity, climate change, food

Water as a
successful “entry
point”

Thank you !

