Asian Regional Workshop on Scientific and Technical Support for Implementation of the Ramsar Convention 7 – 11 October 2013

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- Deliver first hand experience to you on the use of the new 2012 RIS format

- Test some points for possibly further elaboration

 To open up for possibly feedback from you including useful or needed background work in order to use and fill in the RIS properly Kilombero Floodplain, Tanzania (tropical site)
 7000 km² seasonally inundated plain

Lille Vildmose, Denmark (temperate site)

- 70 km² closed peatland system

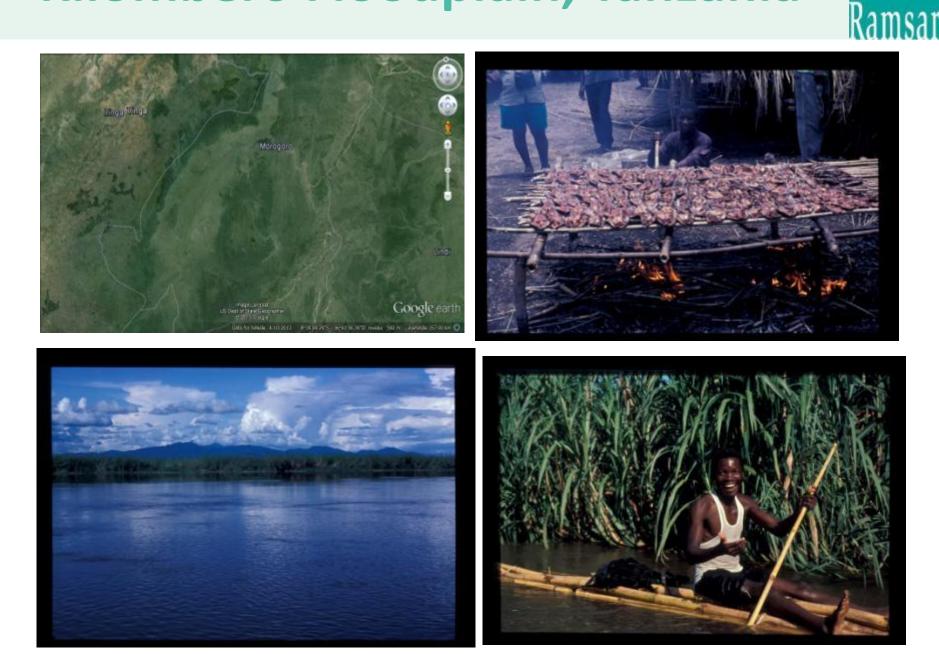
Lille Vildmose is a 2013 Ramsar site ***NEW** Kilombero Floodplain designated in 2002 ***RIS Update**







Kilombero Floodplain, Tanzania



Kilombero Floodplain



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4. Name of the <u>Ramsar</u> Site The official name of the design	ated site in one of the three official languages (H	English, French or Spanish) o	f the Convention.	For further guidance se sections 5.11 and 7.2.4 <i>Strategic Framework</i> .
Official name at designation:	Kilombero Valley Floodplain			Field #4 from RIS 2009 version
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Criterion 1:

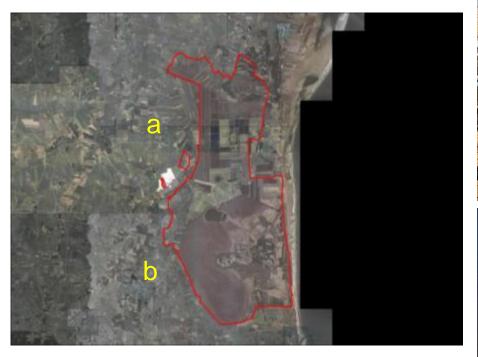
Criterion 2-8:

Criterion 9: Did not exist in 2002.

Lille Vildmose, Denmark

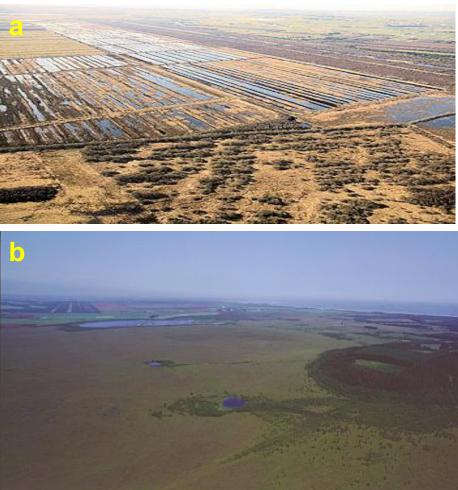


Ramsar Site designation Criterion 1: Representative wetland Climate regulation (1 vi)



Criterion 2: Threatened Ecological Communities

Restoration of raised bog a) degraded, b) natural





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Ramsar Criteria:





Criterion 1: if it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region.

Criterion 2: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.





- Designation due to hydrological importance:
- vi) have a *major hydrological influence* in the context of at least *regional climate regulation or stability* (e.g., certain areas of cloudforest or rainforest, wetlands or wetland complexes in semi-arid, arid or desert areas, tundra or *peatland systems acting as sinks for carbon*

2012 RIS - Fill in findings



2012 RIS, Fill in findings

- Ramsar
- Combination of tick boxes (for statistically analysis) and mandatory or optional text fields
- Clear distinction between baseline information and updates and a focus on recording change (suddenly RIS updates become very important)
- Crystal clear distinction between international important species and communities and noteworthy flora and fauna

2012 RIS, Fill in findings

- Increasingly focus on ecosystem services

- Focus on management treats (and responses)

 Important fields flagged as optional i.e. providing opportunities to explore further in future e.g. ecological processes or habitat connectivity

2012 RIS – Fill in findings

To fill in what you can fill in rather than wait –
 better to fill in partly than not at all

 Test Yourself by coming back - your first choice might have to be altered - ask also for second opinions

Document as much as possible by using the text field boxes and references

Findings



-53 references used for Kilombero Floodplain RIS-8 references for Lille Vildmose RIS

-At least 3 birds move from international important to noteworthy in Lille Vildmose

-After update Kilombero qualifies on all criteria

2012 RIS – practical hints



For Updates:

- Use a Word template and do copy paste
- The first transformation is the worst!
- Give it a quick go and fill in as much as you can in a couple of hours

 New RIS for a new Ramsar site is simpler than an Update

Focus on ecosystem services





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Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	
	Water for irrigated agriculture	
	Water for industry	
	Water for energy production (hydro-electricity)	
Wetland non-food	Timber	
products	Fuel wood/fibre	
	Peat X	1
	Livestock fodder X	1
	Reeds and fibre	
	Other	
Biochemical products	Extraction of material from biota	
Genetic materials	Medicinal products	
	Genes for tolerance to certain conditions (e.g., salinity)	
	Genes for resistance to plant pathogens	
	Ornamental species (live and dead)	
Regulating Services – ber regulation	hefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes such as climate regulation, water regulation, an	nd natural hazard

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regulation regulation	fits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes such as climate regulation, water reg	ulation, and nat	ural hazaro			
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge					
	Storage and delivery of water as part of water supply systems for agriculture and industry					
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention					
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution					
Climate regulation	Local climate regulation/buffering of change	X	5			
	Regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation and other climactic processes	Х	5			
Biological control of pests and disease	Support of predators of agricultural pests (e.g., birds feeding on locusts)					
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage					
r i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection					

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	material benefits people obtain from ecosystems such as through spiritual enrichment, cognit			
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	X	1	
	Water sports and activities			
	Picnics, outings, touring	X	2	
	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	X	3	
Spiritual and inspirational	Inspiration	Х	3?	
	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	X	2	
	Contemporary cultural significance, including for arts and creative inspiration, and including existence values	X	1?	
	Spiritual and religious values			
	Aesthetic and "sense of place" values		5	
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	X	3	
	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	X	3	
	Long-term monitoring site	X	3	
	Major scientific study site	X	3	
	'Type location' for a taxon		0	

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Supporting Services – serv	ices necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services such as water cycling, nutrient have an indirect benefit to humans or a direct benefit over a long period of time.		
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganizms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	X	3
Soil formation	Sediment retention	X	5
	Accumulation of organic matter	X	3
Nutrient cycling	Storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	X	5
	Carbon storage/sequestration	X	3?
Pollination	Support for pollinators	X	2?
Other ecosystem service(s) Have studies or assessments of ecosystem services provide	been made of the economic valuation YES NO UNKNOWN		
27. Social or cultural values			For further guidar section 7.3.17 of
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Ramsar

Lille Vildmose, Denmark Output Service **Climate regulation** Carbon storage 8942 t CO2 / year Carbon dioxide emissions 5113 t CO2 / year 4,5 m x 2000 ha Carbon stock ? Nitrous oxide and Methane emissions Water-related service Water for domestic purposes and irrigation 0? Flood protection 0? Water quality 0? Harvested wild goods Wild products Hunting (No animals) **Cultivated goods** None? Cultivated products Nature-based recreation "many" (No) Number of visits

Kilombero Floodplain, Tanzania Service



Climate regulation

Carbon storage	?
Carbon dioxide emissions	?
Methane emissions	?
Nitrous oxide emissions	?
Water-related service	
Water for domestic purposes and irrigation	Yes
Flood protection	Yes
Water quality	Yes
Harvested wild goods	
Wild products	Fish, game, materiel, fruits,
Cultivated goods	wood,
Cultivated products	Sugar can, rice, other crops
Nature-based recreation	
Number of visits	Yes

Ecological character of a wetland





Change to ecological character



RIS Baseline

13. What are the critical ecological components, processes and services that determine the ecological character of this Ramsar Site?

RIS Update

6c) Changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar Site

Please describe any changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar Site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site.

i)	If the change of ecological character is negative and human- induced, has an Article	YES	ΝΟ	
	3.2 report been submitted to the Secretariat?			

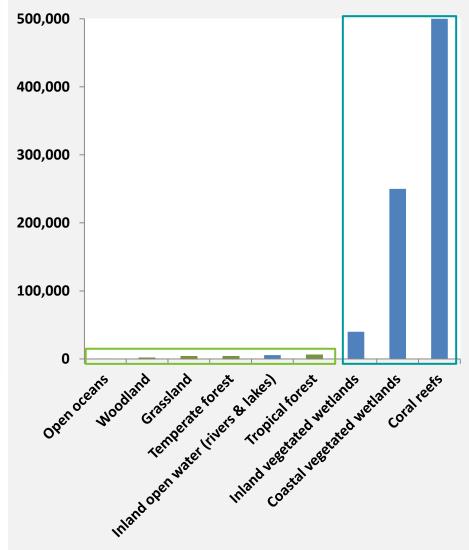
We have under-valued our wetlands' importance



85-95% of value is from "water-related benefits/services"

Value of wetlands & other ecosystems

(average \$/ha - derived from de Groot et al. 2012)





Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of the ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site

YES NO UNKNOWN

Perspectives using 2012 format





2012 RIS - perspective

- Ramsar
- When STRP presented this new framework to COP11 the STRP stated that: "this new format has the potential to revolutionise our understanding of Ramsar sites"
- When transformed it will be a hugely powerful tool to inform conservationist and to be used in environmental assessments
- In short to explain stories including costs and benefits to decision-makers

Why is that?



Two main points:

1) The Information from a single site is focused, rather specific and detailed e.g. **international importance**, **ecological character change**, **ecosystem services**, opportunities for management response

2) The opportunity to undertake analysis on all 2012 RIS "transformed" Ramsar sites using electronic means

"How many of x, y and z species of crane breed in the worlds Ramsar sites"





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