



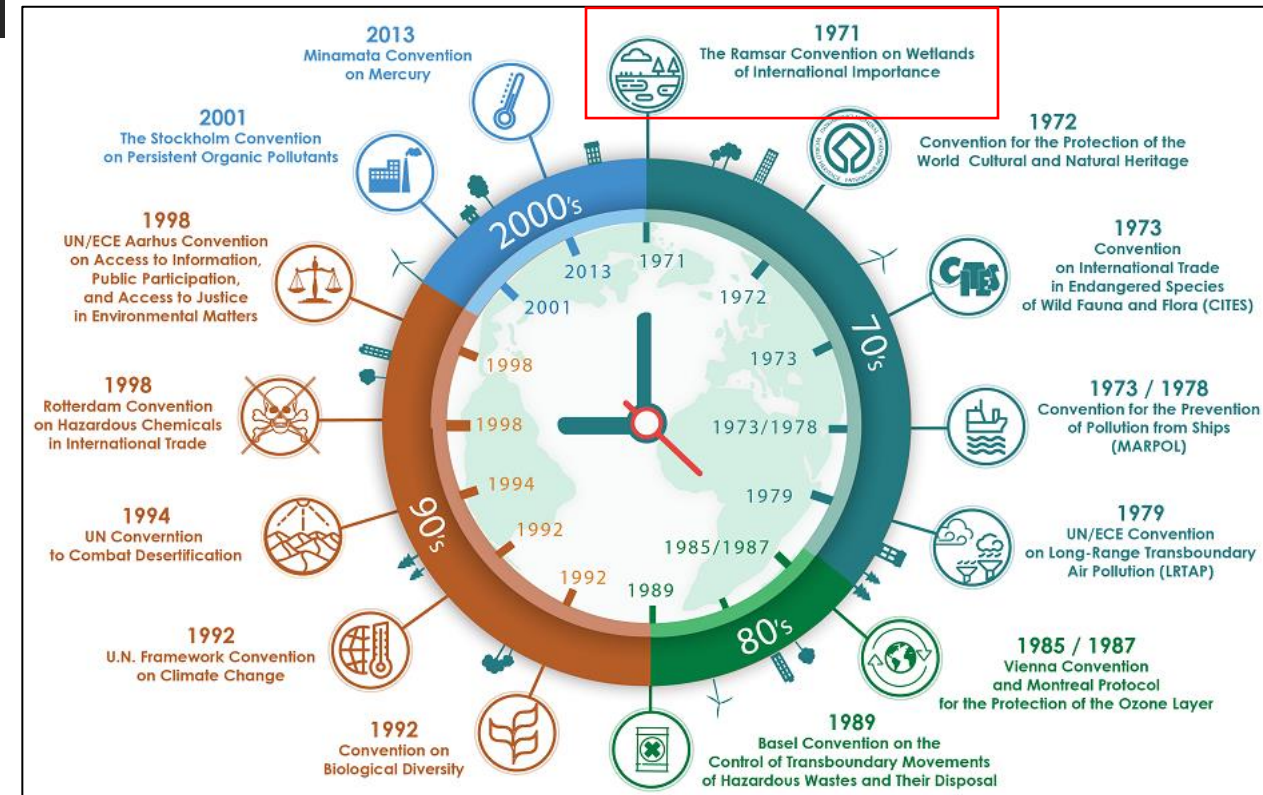
INITIATIVE ON
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Ramsar Convention: Contributions for Managing Wetlands and Ensuring Human Well-being

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Ramsar Convention

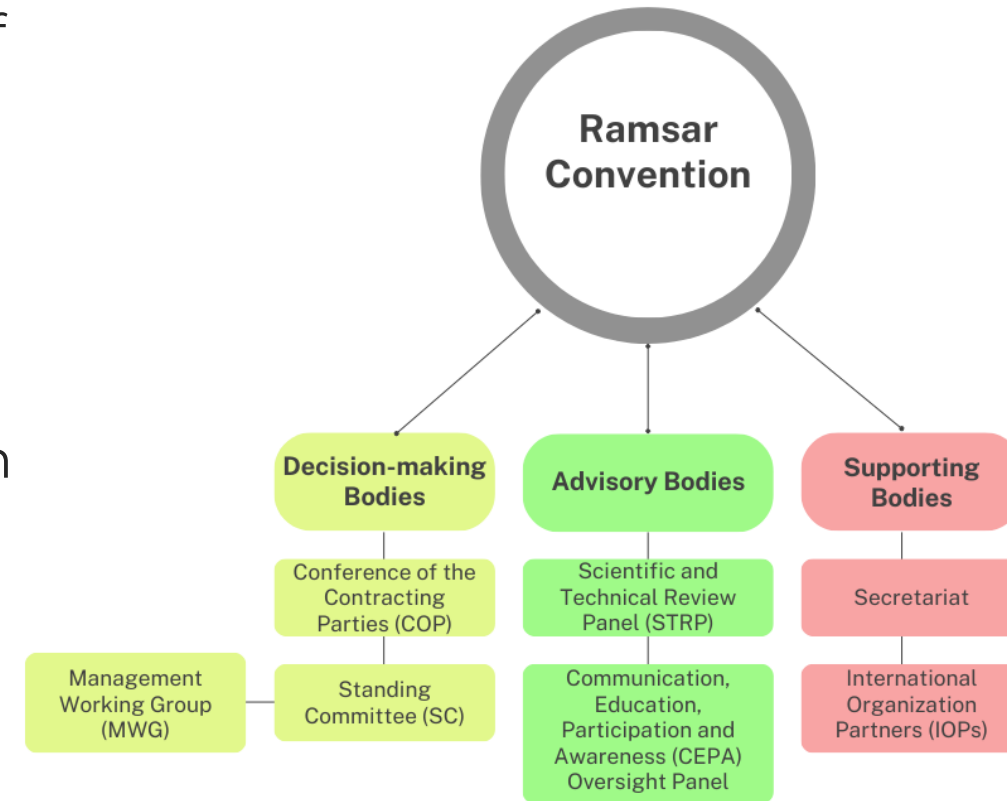
- Came into force in December 1975
- First of the modern global multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)
- 172 Contracting Parties
- Shifted focus from species conservation to wise use
- Three main pillars
 - Promote wise use of all Ramsar wetlands
 - Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance
 - Foster international cooperation



<https://www.unep.org>

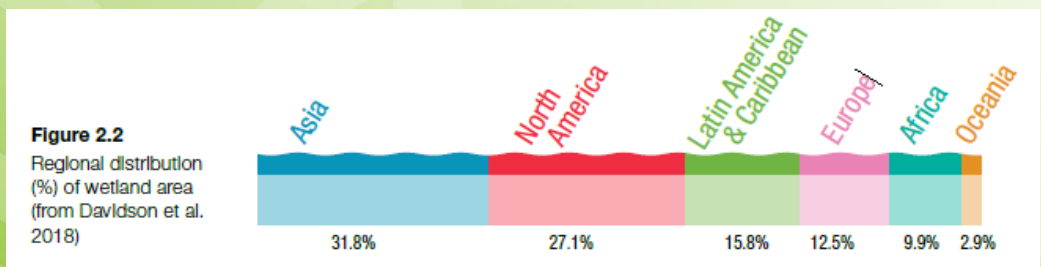
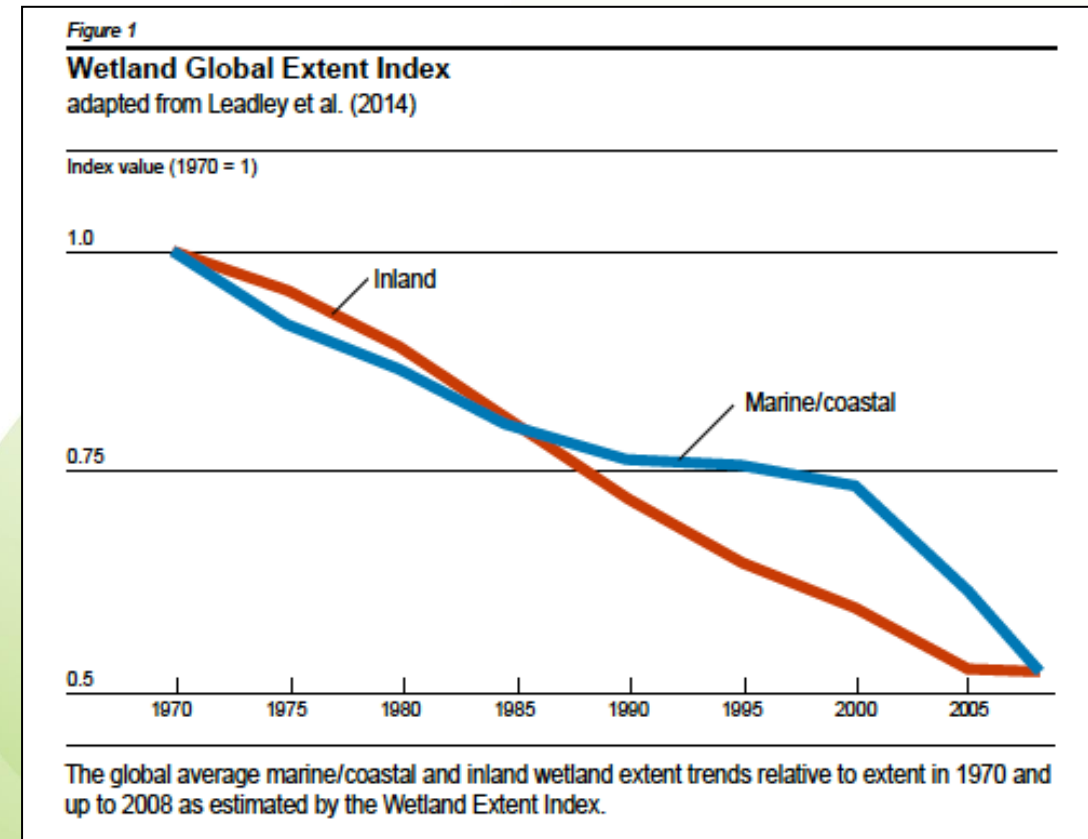
Bodies of the Convention

- Three main bodies
- COP - policy-making and decision-making organ of the Convention, meeting once every three years
- SC - intersessional executive body that represents the COP between its meetings
- STRP – provides scientific and technical guidance for implementation
- CEPA - sets priorities for communication, education and capacity building
- The Secretariat - serves as the administrative office responsible for supporting the three-year cycle of Convention processes
- IOPs – six IOPs (WI, WWF, IUCN, Birdlife Int, WWT, IWMI). Provide additional technical expertise, consultation, and collaboration for STRP work



Current State of Global Wetlands

- Wetlands cover over 12.1 million km²
- Occupy only 6% of Earth's surface, but 40% of all known plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands
- Between 1970 and 2015, inland and marine/coastal wetlands declined by ~35%
- Since 1970, 81% of inland wetland species and 36% of coastal and marine species have declined
- 2,400 Ramsar sites - covering nearly 250 million hectares, ~20% of global wetland area



Wetlands and Human Wellbeing

“Wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres”

Table 2.7
Consolidated list of wetland ecosystem services

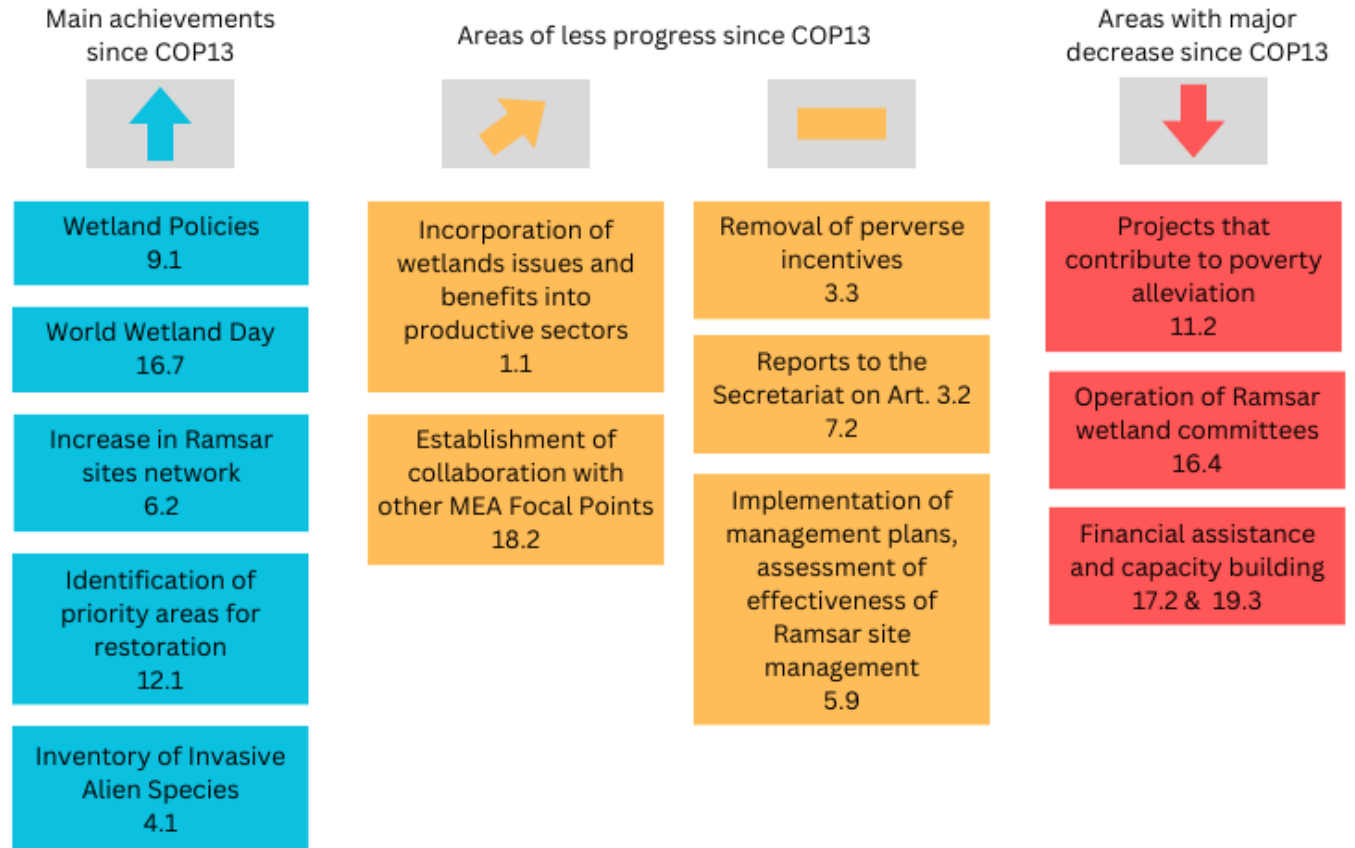
Relative importance of ecosystem services derived from different types of wetland ecosystems (based on expert opinion and from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005). The information represents a global average; there will be local and regional differences in importance, and further services could be added as considered important and where adequate information is available.

H High
M Medium
L Low
? Not known
na Not applicable

Wetland types / Services	Inland wetlands					Coastal / marine wetlands						Human-made wetlands						
	River Stream	Lake	Peatland	Marsh Swamp	Underground	Salt Marsh	Mangrove	Seagrass	Coral Reef	Shellfish Reef	Lagoon	Kelp	Reservoir	Rice Paddy	Wet Grass	Waste Ponds	Salinas	Aqua Ponds
Provisioning services																		
Food	H	H	H	H	na	H	H	M	M	M	M	L	M	H	H	L	H	H
Fresh water	H	H	L	M	H	L	na	na	na	na	L	na	M	na	na	L	na	Na
Fibre & fuel	M	M	H	H	na	L	H	na	na	na	M	na	L	na	na	L	na	L
Biochemical products	L	?	?	L	?	L	L	?	L	?	?	L	?	na	?	?	L	?
Genetic materials	L	L	?	?	?	L	L	?	L	?	?	?	L	L	?	?	L	L
Regulating services																		
Climate	L	H	H	H	L	H	H	H	M	L	L	na	M	L	L	na	L	na
Hydrological	H	H	M	M	L	M	H	na	na	na	M	na	H	M	L	na	na	na
Pollution control	H	M	M	H	M	H	H	L	L	na	M	?	L	L	L		na	na
Erosion protection	M	M	M	M	H	M	H	L	M	M	L	L	L	M	M		M	na
Natural hazards	M	H	M	H	na	H	H	M	H	M	M	L	L	L	L	na	M	na
Cultural services																		
Spiritual & inspirational	M	H	M	M	L	?	L	?	H	na	M	na	M	L	L	na	M	na
Recreational	H	H	L	M	L	?	?	?	H	na	M		H	L	L	na	L	na
Aesthetic	M	M	L	M	L	M	M	na	H	na	M	na	H	M	M	na	M	na
Educational	H	H	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	H	L	L	L	M	L
Supporting services																		
Biodiversity	H	H	H	H	H	M	M	L	H	M	M	L	M	M	M	L	M	L
Soil formation	H	L	H	H	na	M	M	na	Na	na	na	na	L	M	L	L	L	na
Nutrient cycling	H	L	H	H	L	M	M	L	M	na	M	L	L	M	L	H	L	L
Pollination	L	L	L	L	na	L	M	M	Na	na	?	?	L	L	M	L	L	na

Ramsar 4th Strategic Plan 2016–2024

- 19 targets and 32 indicators under four main goals
 - Addressing the drivers of wetlands loss and degradation
 - Effectively conserving and managing Ramsar site network
 - Wisely using all wetlands
 - Enhancing implementation



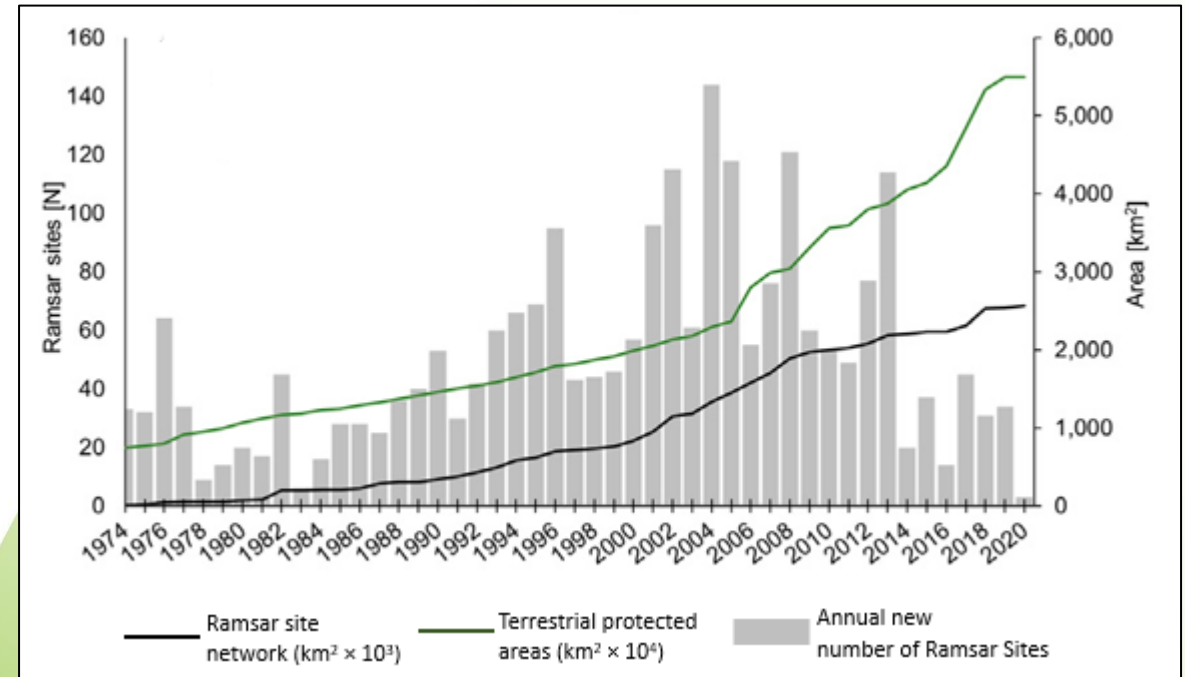
Ramsar Secretary General Report (COP14, 2022)



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Ramsar Implementation

- Number of Ramsar sites have been increasing but plateauing in the last few years
- Increased public awareness on wetlands
- Challenges in implementation
 - Ineffective management - many sites lack management plans
 - Less than 50% contracted parties have national wetland inventories
 - Changes in wetland ecological character are not reported (Montreux Record)
 - Need inter-sectoral cooperation nationally and internationally



Kingsford et al., 2021

Future Direction

- Assessing gaps in the Ramsar network and creating synergies with global climate and biodiversity goals
- Wetland mapping using available methodologies for inventorying and wetland carbon assessments
- Increased valuation and protection of small wetlands
- Maintaining and restoring the ecological character of wetlands in agricultural settings
- Integrating water security into wetland conservation and management
- Fostering partnerships and resource mobilization





THANK YOU



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