



The assessment of  
**Ramsar Sites**  
within the  
**2nd Assessment of  
Transboundary Waters:**  
rationale and objectives

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# A look back...

## 1960s:

- Fast destruction of European wetlands (marshlands)
- Decrease in water bird population
- Concerns about impact on people & biodiversity

## 1962: MAR Conference (« MARshes »)

- Preparation of an international treaty on wetlands

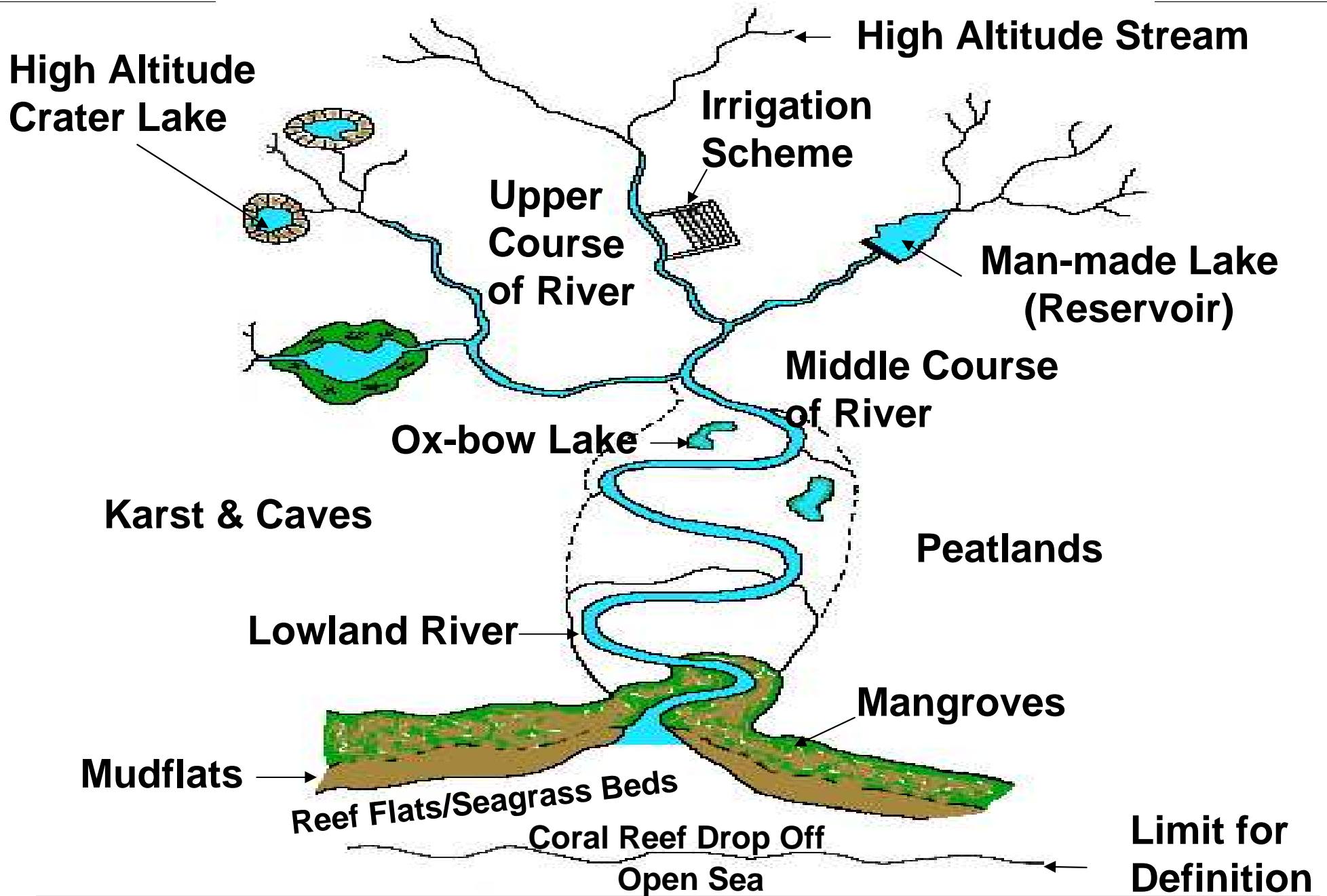
## 1971: City of Ramsar, Iran:

18 nations adopted the

**Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**





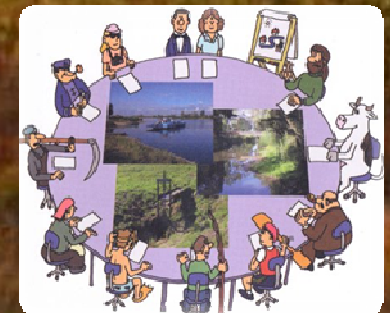
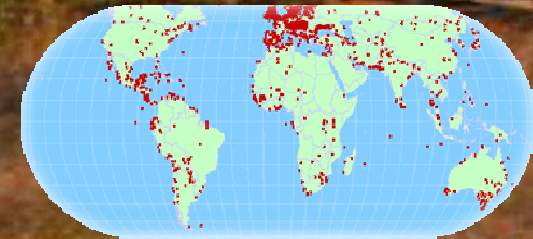


**Type of Wetlands Included in the Ramsar Definition**



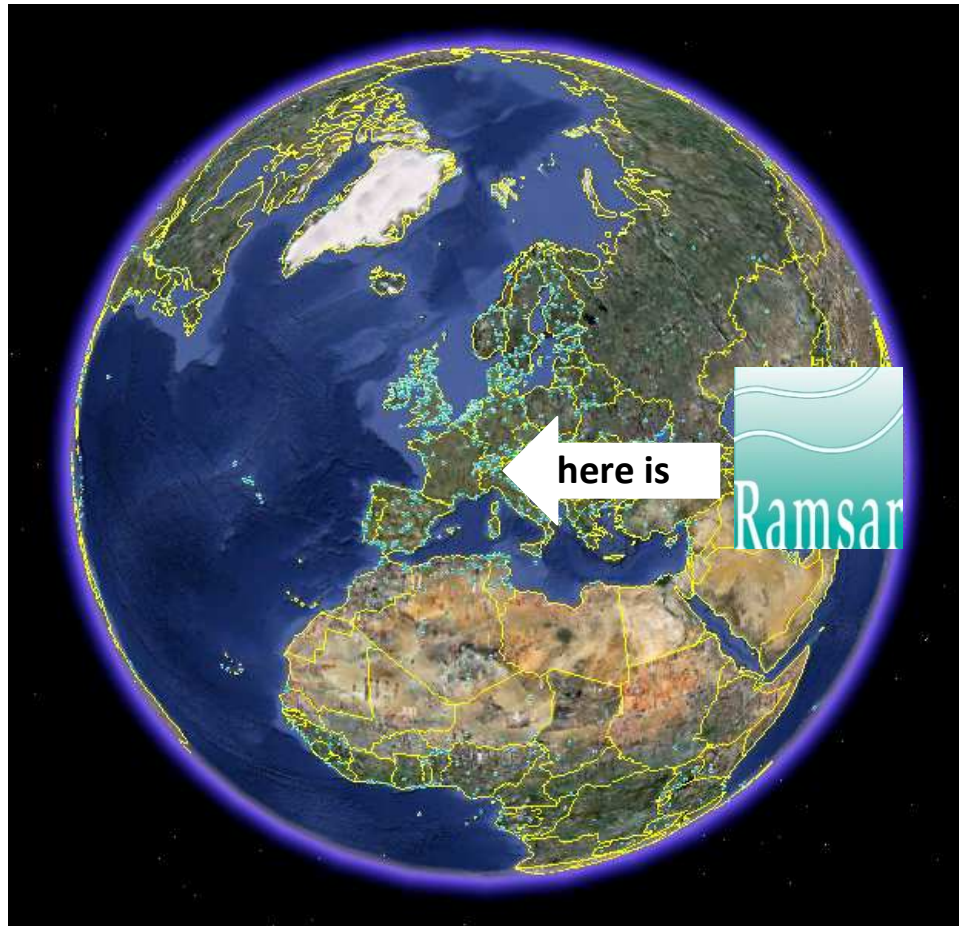
# The 3 pillars of the Ramsar Convention

1. **Wise Use** (sustainable use) of all wetlands through national land-use planning, appropriate policies and legislation, management actions and public education
2. Designation of wetlands (9 criteria) for the **List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)** and **ensuring their effective management** to maintain their ecological character, provide training, undertake necessary research and monitoring.
3. Promoting **International Cooperation** concerning transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems (and water catchments), shared species, and development projects that may affect wetland ecosystems





# 40 years later...



**160 Contracting Parties designated 1912 Ramsar Sites worldwide covering an area of 187 million ha**

(about the size of Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, Georgia and Turkey together)

# Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)

International significance in terms of  
ecology, botany, zoology, limnology or hydrology

Representative, rare  
or unique wetland type

9 CRITERIA

Biological diversity

Also hydrological importance:

- Natural control of flooding,
- Recharge of aquifers
- Maintaining high water quality standards etc.

- Threatened species or ecological communities
- Populations of plants or animals important for maintaining biological diversity
- Species at critical stage of life cycle

▪ 2 criteria refer to waterbirds

▪ 2 criteria based on fish

▪ 1 criterion based on other taxa



# Ramsar's input to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Assessment

## Our objectives:

- Add **ecosystem** and **ecological information** components to the Assessment
- Illustrate **biodiversity** and **cultural heritage** values
- Highlight links between **wetland services** and the **hydrological cycle** in the **catchment basin** concerned
- **Promote transboundary cooperation** between the management authorities of Ramsar Sites



# Ramsar Sites in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Assessment

## Types of transboundary Ramsar sites

- formally designated as transboundary
- without formal designation, but RS on both sides of the border
- Ramsar Site + additional parts of the ecosystems extend into another country
- **Special datasheet** will be used to collect information/draft the text
- In the Assessment report selected transboundary Ramsar sites will be presented in a **“box”** or in a separate section of the chapter on the relevant river basin



# Structure of the

Ramsar

box



- General description of the ecosystem
- Main wetland ecosystem services
- Cultural values of the wetland area
- Biodiversity values of the wetland area
- Pressure factors and transboundary impacts
- Transboundary wetland management



## Officially designated and potential transboundary Ramsar Sites in W&C Europe

Krkonoše/Karkonosze  
subalpine peatbogs

Trilateral Ramsar Site  
Floodplains of the  
Morava-Dyje-Danube  
Confluence

Neusiedler See-  
Seewinkel-Fertő-  
Hanság

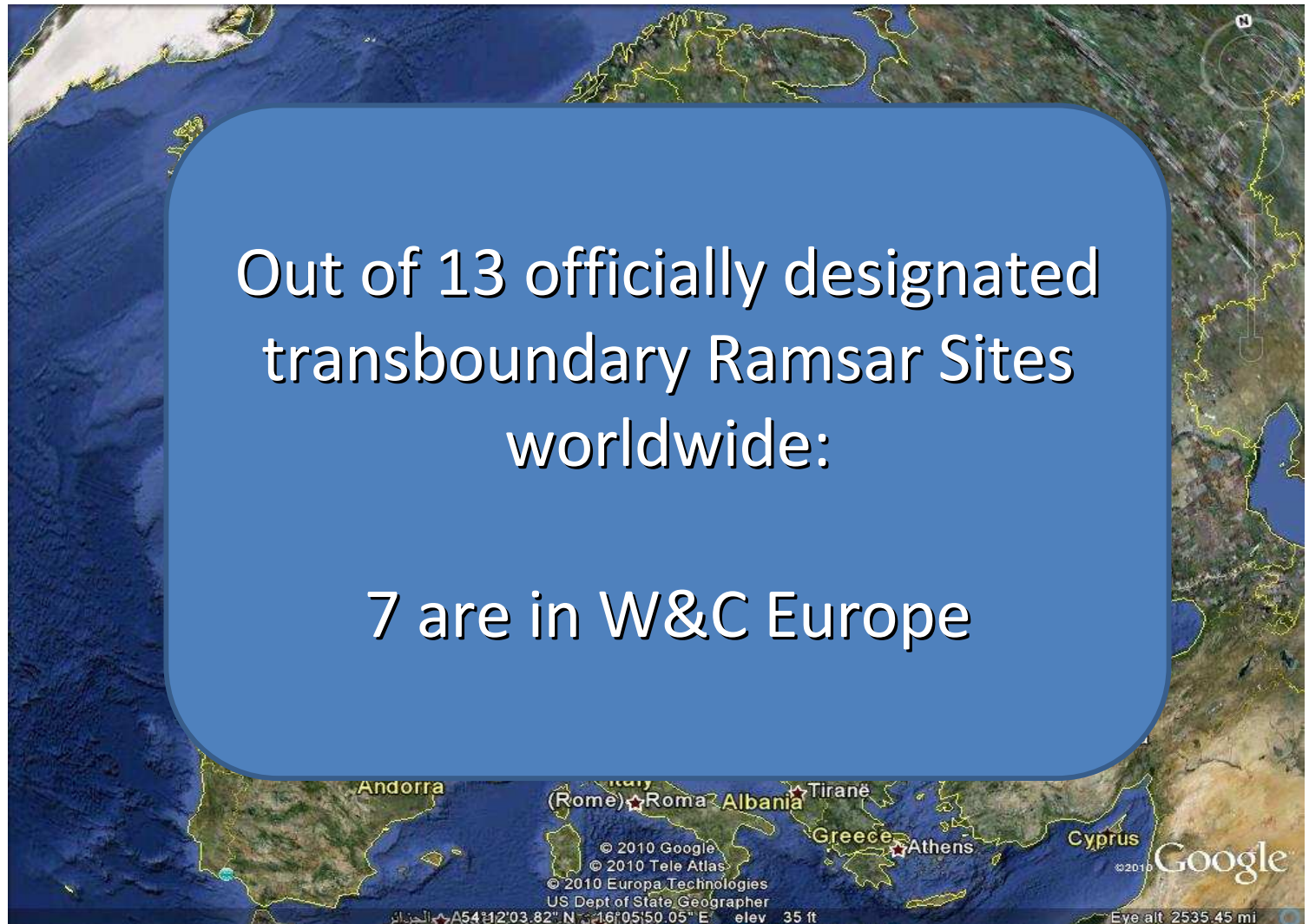
Bayerische Wildalm

Rhin supérieur/  
Oberrhein

Vallée de la Haute-  
Sûre

Out of 13 officially designated  
transboundary Ramsar Sites  
worldwide:

7 are in W&C Europe



27 potential transboundary Ramsar Sites





Krkonoše/Karkonosze  
subalpine peatbogs

Trilateral Ramsar Site  
Floodplains of the  
Morava-Dyje-Danube  
Confluence

Lough Foyle

Wadden Sea

Lake Geneva

Rhin supérieur/  
Oberrhein

Txingudi

## Wadden Sea

## Lake Geneva

1. Rives du Lac Léman (France) –  
additional parts of the ecosystem in  
Switzerland
2. Le Rhône genevois – Vallons de l'Allondon  
et de La Laire (Switzerland) –  
additional parts of the ecosystem in France
3. Impluvium d'Evian (France)
4. Les Grangettes (Switzerland)

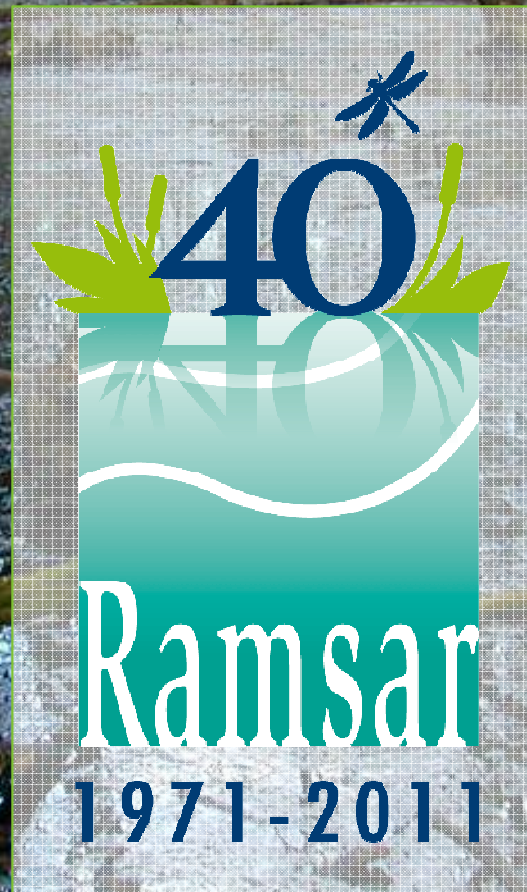
*only unilaterally* designated Ramsar Sites

Etournel (not yet RS)





**Thank you!**  
**For more information:**  
**[www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org)**



**Trilateral RS Floodplains of the Danube-Morava-Dyje Confluence  
Austria & Czech Republic & Slovakia**







# The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

The Convention addresses wetlands from the mountains to the sea:

- **Inland wetlands:**
  - marshes, lakes, rivers, peatlands, forested wetlands
- **Coastal and near-shore marine systems:**
  - Coral reefs, mangroves, estuaries





# The Wadden Sea



- Largest unbroken stretch of mudflats world wide
- Highly productive ecosystem
- 10-12 mill. migratory birds pass through the area
- Shared by 3 countries

Denmark

Schleswig-Holstein

Hamburg

Lower Saxony

Germany

The Netherlands

