COP14 2022

RAMSAR COP14 SIDE EVENT

Unpacking the Potential of Wetlands for Addressing Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss

8 November 2022 | 13.15 - 14.15 CET | CICG & Online

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Unpacking the Potential of Wetlands for Addressing Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss

James DALTON

IUCN

Head, Water & Land Management,
IUCN | Moderator

RAMSAR COP14 SIDE EVENT

COP14 2022 · IUCN · GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK · Network Nature

COP 14

Wetlands Action for People and Nature

5-13 November 2022

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SPEAKERS

Sonja KÖPPEL

Secretary to the Water Convention, UNECE

Jakub WEJCHERT

Senior Policy Officer, Directorate-General Environment, European Commission

Jeremy BIGGS

CEO, Freshwater Habitats Trust | Visiting Professor, Oxford Brookes University | Project Partner, PONDERFUL

Arnaud TERRISSE

Project Officer, Plan Bleu | Project Partner, WaterLANDS

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WATER CONVENTION

Secretary to the Water Convention, UNECE

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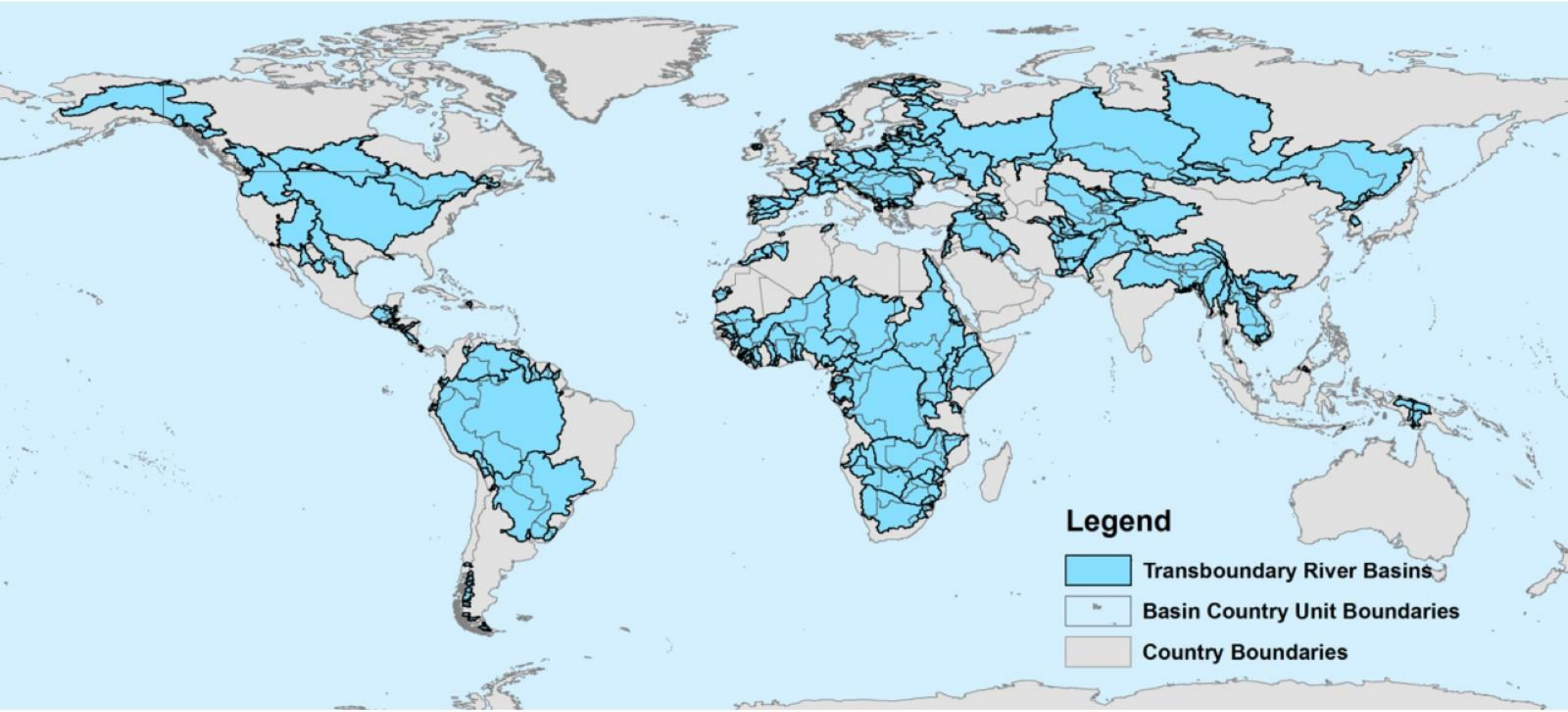
WATER CONVENTION

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and NBS

Sonja Koeppel, Secretary water Convention, UNECE

NBS and transboundary cooperation

- NBS provides benefits to the society, to the economy and to the environment. These include climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, water quality and availability, food security, raw materials, carbon storage, biodiversity, recreation, etc.
- Over 60% of the global freshwater flow occurs in transboundary basins. Transboundary water cooperation is thus a prerequisite for ecosystem and climate resilience and sustainable water management. NBS are often effective from a basin perspective bringing benefits for all riparians.
- NBS offer an opportunity to initiate and/or strengthen transboundary cooperation and contribute to regional peace and regional integration
- Multiple experiences exist from basins across the world and should be shared: Danube, Rhine, Sixaola, Mekong, Chu Talas and Dniester



http://twap-rivers.org/

The Water Convention: What is it?

WATER CONVENTION

- **Legal instrument** with 3 key principles: prevention of transboundary impacts, equitable and reasonable utilization of the shared water resources and cooperation (obligations for Parties)
- A **unique platform** to discuss progress of transboundary water cooperation worldwide under the umbrella of the United Nations
- Opened to all interested countries, with more than **130 countries** and **30 River Basin Organizations** exchanging experiences and knowledge to prompt progress in cooperation through thematic meetings and activities
- Currently **47 Parties** worldwide and more than **15 countries** under accession process

How does it support countries enhancing transboundary water cooperation and management ?

→ Addresses **political and technical challenges** of Parties and non-Parties in managing their transboundary water resources through capacity building activities and the development of practical tools;

→ Supports **policy processes and technical cooperation** from the national, to the basin and global levels.

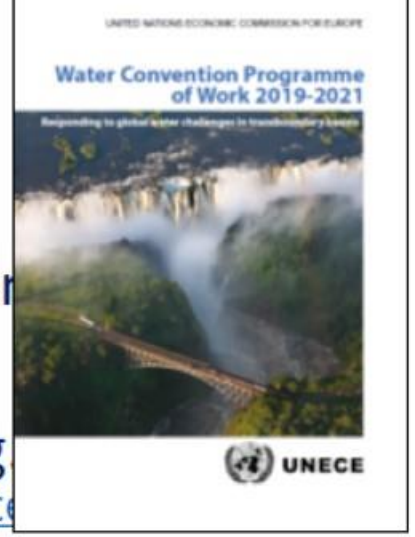
NBS and the Water Convention

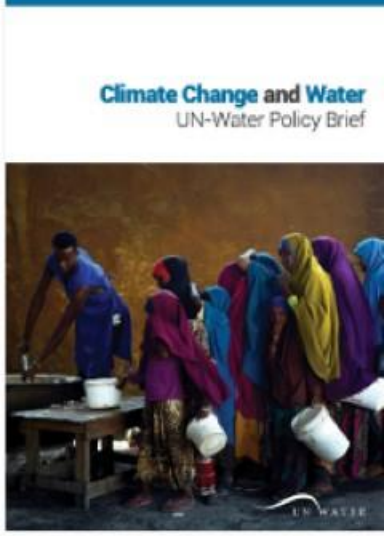
- The Water Convention obliges Parties to ensure conservation ar
  where necessary, restoration of ecosystems
- Early 200s: several workshops and publications on the topic e.g
  Recommendations on payment for ecosystem services in integrated water resource
  management
- Global Network of basins working on climate change adaptation
- Global workshop on EbA in transboundary basins (29-30 April 2019,
  Geneva)

https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50193

https://www.unece.org/info/media/news/environment/2019/advancing-ecosystem-based-adaptation-to-climate-change-in-transboundary-basins/doc.html

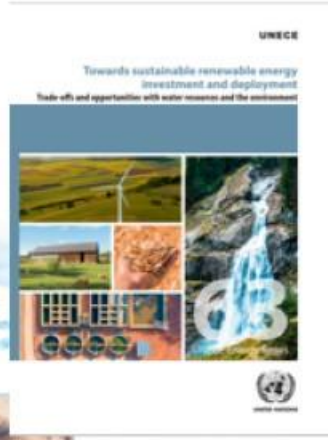
https://www.unece.org/env/water/water_climate_activ.html



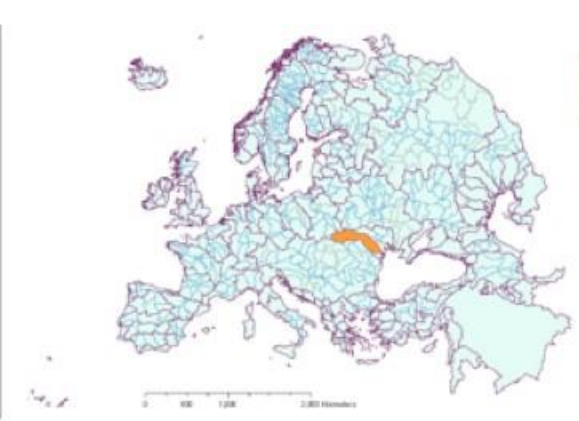


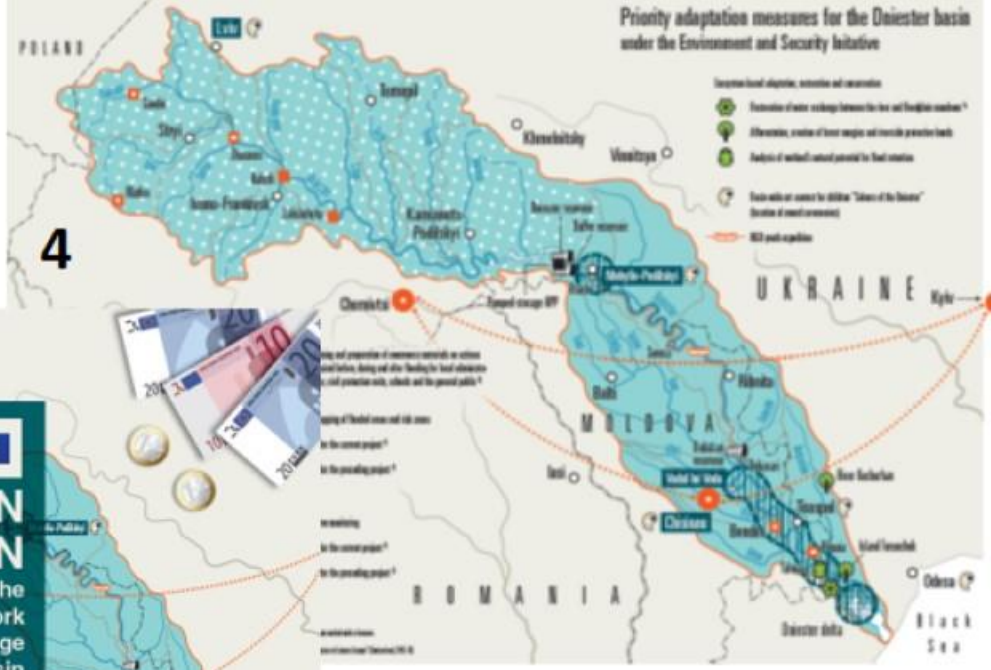
https://www.unwater.org/unwater-policy-brief-on-climate-change-and-water/

https://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html



Dniester case-study





Strategic Framework
for Adaptation
to Climate Change
in the Dniester River Basin

Outcomes

- The Dniester Treaty
- The Dniester Commission
- Working Group on Biodiversity
- Dniester RBMP
- Stakeholder engagement

Sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

16 November 2022

High-level segment

16-18 November 2022

General segment

- To be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, 16-18 November
- Expecting more than 200 participants
- Provides input to the UN 2023 Water Conference

Link to the wepage

PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

High-level session during the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties

The Protocol on Water and Health: strengthening the resilience of WASH and health services in times of climate change and pandemics

Session objective:

- To provide an opportunity to appraise progress and take stock of the concrete results of countries' responses in ensuring access to water, sanitation, hygiene and health for all in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
- To foster an open dialogue on how to tackle the persisting gaps and challenges posed by climate change in the pan-European region to create climate-resilient WASH and health services

Confirmed speakers: Minister/ State secretary from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, North Macedonia, Georgia etc.

WATER CONVENTION

UNECE

For more information:

https://www.unece.org/env/water/

Water Convention Secretariat Contact:

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

water.convention@un.org

Sonja.koeppel@un.org

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The EU Nature Restoration Law

Restoring ecosystems for people, nature and the climate

European Union

The European Green Deal

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Protect Nature

Enable Transformative Change

Restore Nature

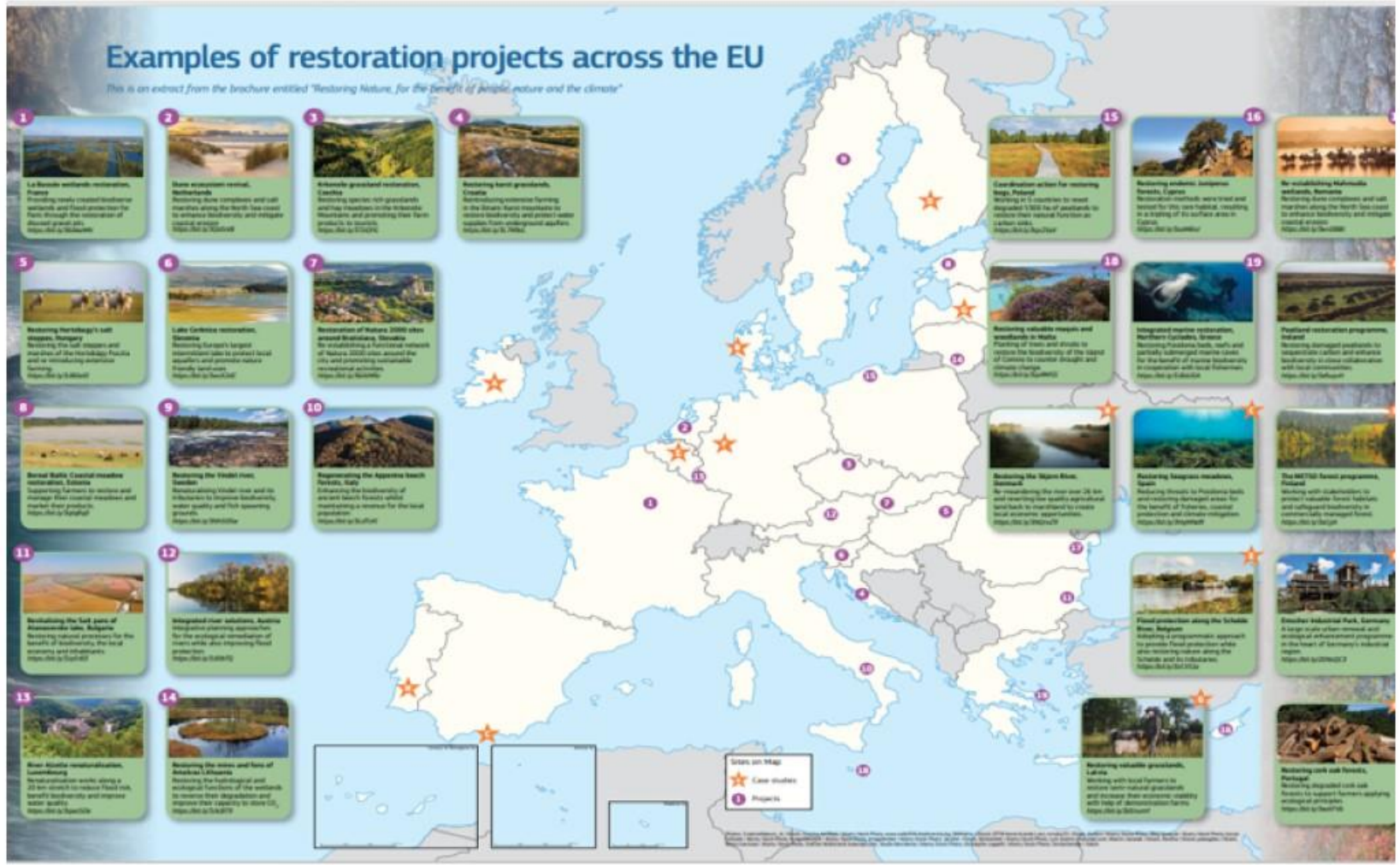
EU For An Ambitious Global Agenda

International context

- CBD COP 15
- UN decade on restoration 2021-2030
- SDGs (in particular goals 14.2, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3)
- UNFCCC, Ramsar…

EU For An Ambitious Global Agenda

Restoration is already happening ....



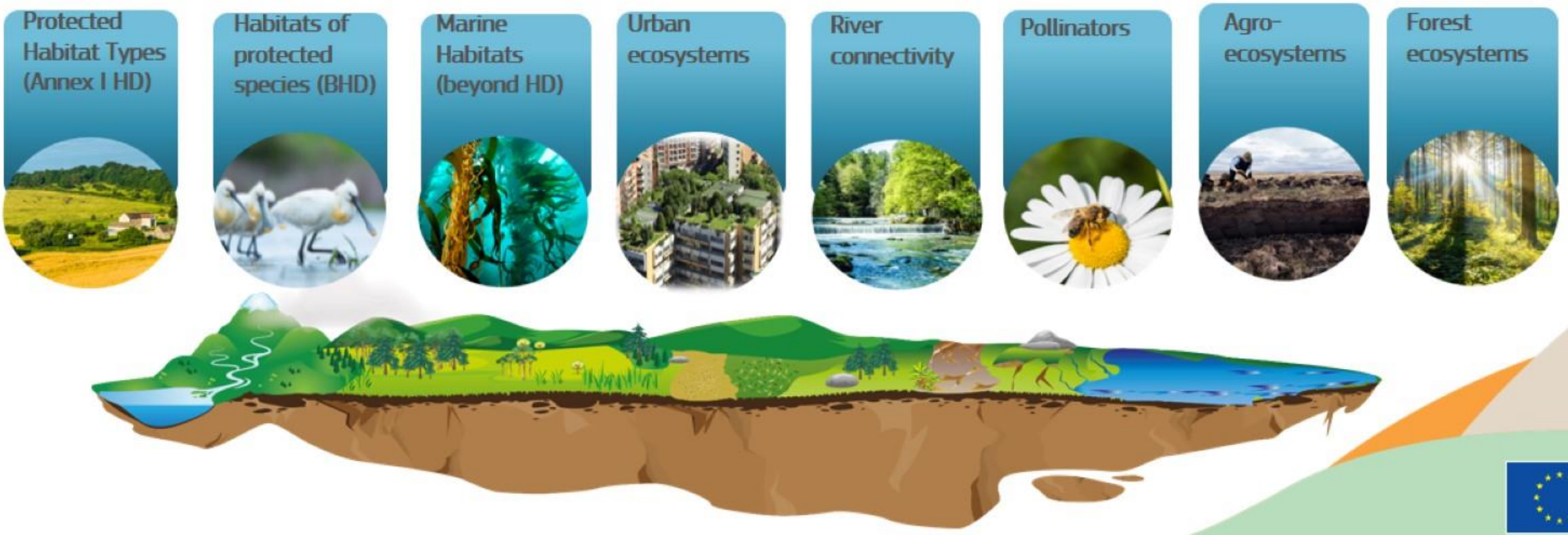
However restoration is needed on **larger scale** to ensure the sustained long-term recovery of biodiversity, for the benefit of nature, the climate and people

Nature Restoration Regulation: Structure

Overarching objective

- Contribution to i.a. international commitments
- By 2030 → restoration measures will cover 20% of EU's land and sea
- By 2050 → measures in place for all ecosystems in need of restoration

Restoration targets



Thank you for your attention!

More info:

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/nature-restoration-law_en

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Ponderful

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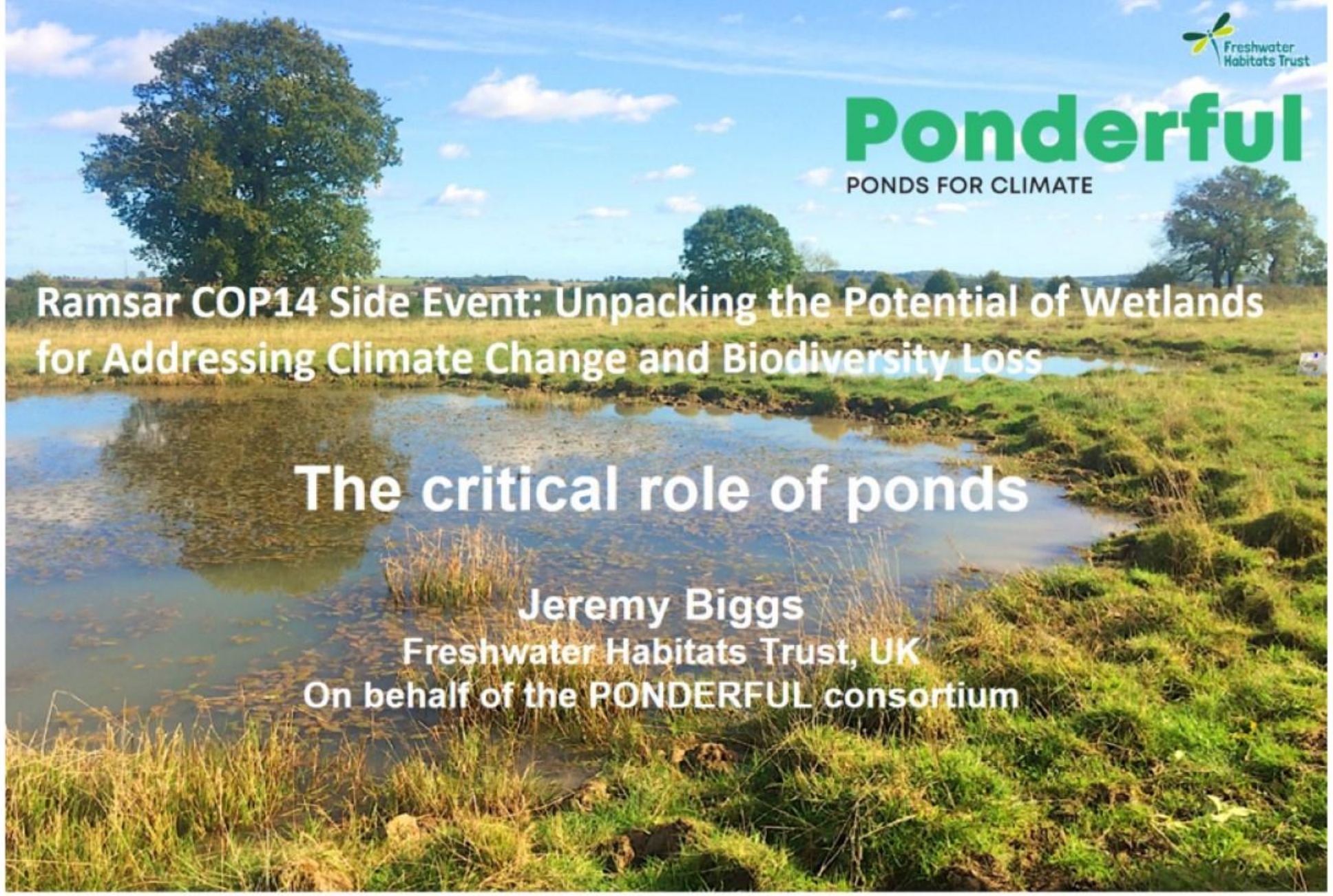
GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Network Nature



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PONDS FOR CLIMATE

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Pantanal: Bolivia, Brazil, and Paraguay

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0.3 ha pond in the Cairngorm Mountains, Scotland

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Man-made field pond in Nouvelle Aquitaine, France

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Giara di Gesturi: Mediterranean Temporary Pond in Sardinia, Italy, with exceptional assemblage of uncommon and European threatened species

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PONDS FOR CLIMATE

About 80% of the global river network is thought to comprise headwater streams (0–2nd order)

Biggs, J., Von Fumetti, S. and Kelly-Quinn, M., 2017. The importance of small waterbodies for biodiversity and ecosystem services: implications for policy makers. Hydrobiologia, 793: 3-39.

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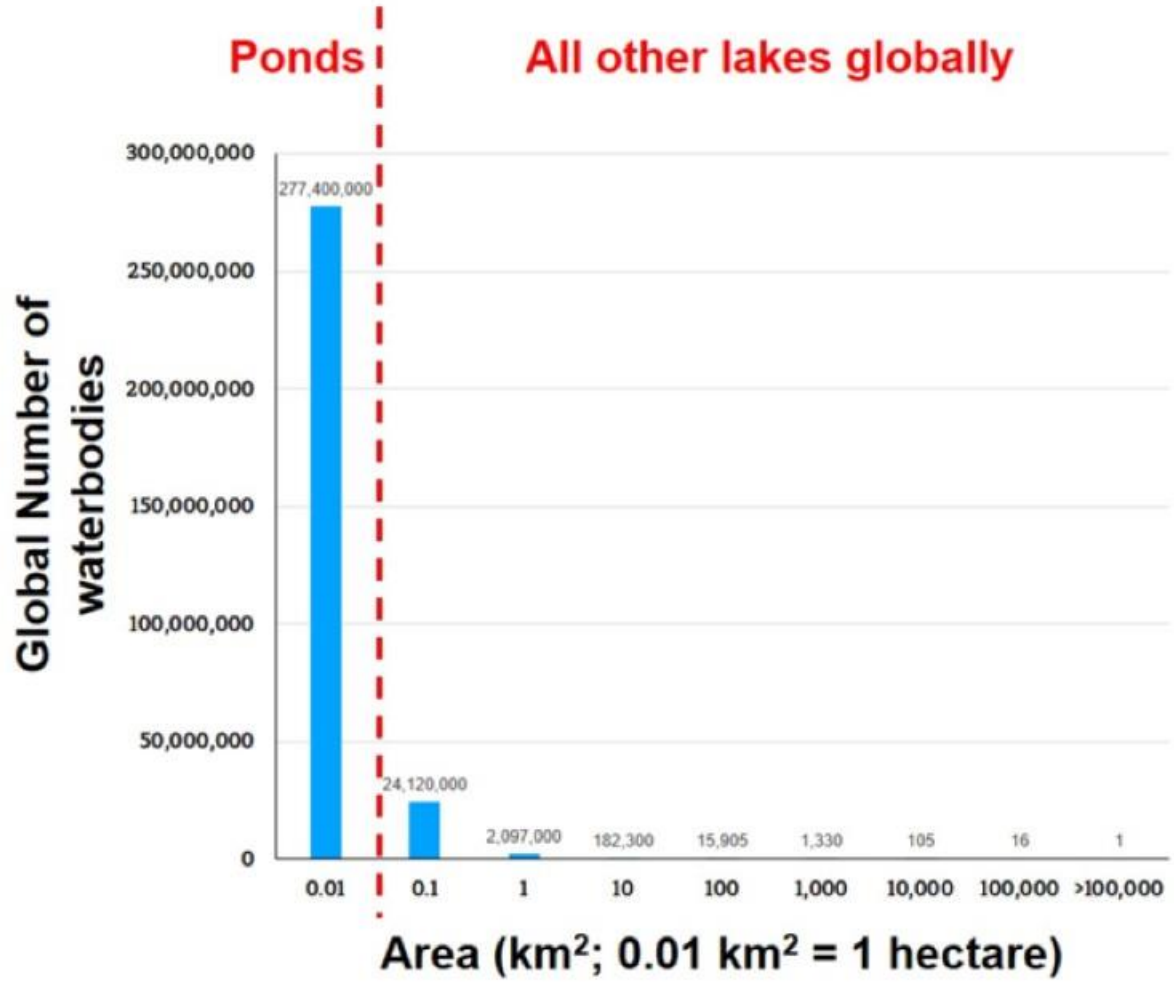
- About 90% of global standing waters are ponds less than 1 ha
- Focus of PONDERFUL



Downing, J.A., Prairie, Y.T., Cole, J.J., Duarte, C.M., Tranvik, L.J., Striegl, R.G., McDowell, W.H., Kortelainen, P., Caraco, N.F., Melack, J.M. and Middelburg, J.J., 2006. The global abundance and size distribution of lakes, ponds, and impoundments. Limnology and Oceanography, 51(5), pp.2388-2397.

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Ponds:

Small waters between 1 m^2 and 5 ha in area which hold water for 4 months of the year or more

(Ramsar pond / lake boundary: 8 ha)

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Evidence increasing over last 20 years of critical importance for freshwater biodiversity

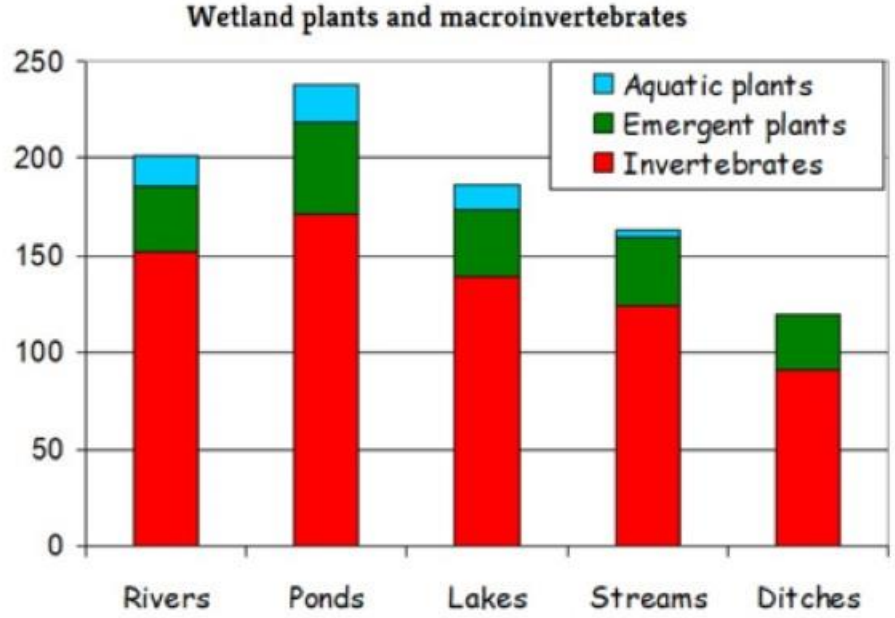
At landscape level ponds support more species than rivers

Biological Conservation

Comparative biodiversity of rivers, streams, ditches and ponds in an agricultural landscape in Southern England

Abstract

Information about the relative biodiversity value of different waterbody types is a vital pre-requisite for many strategic conservation goals. In practice, however, exceptionally few inter-waterbody comparisons have been made. The current study compared river, stream, ditch and pond biodiversity within an 80 km² area of lowland British countryside. The results showed that although all waterbody types contributed to the diversity of macrophytes and macroinvertebrates in the region, they differed in relative value. Individual river sites were rich but relatively uniform in their species composition. Individual ponds varied considerably in species richness, with the richest sites supporting similar numbers of taxa to the best river sections, but the poorest sites amongst the most impoverished for all waterbody types. At a regional level, however, ponds contributed most to biodiversity, supporting considerably more species, more unique species and more scarce species than other waterbody types. Streams typically supported fewer species and fewer unique species at local and regional level than either ponds or rivers. Ditches (most of which were seasonal) were the least species-rich habitat, but supported uncommon species, including temporary water invertebrates not recorded in other waterbody types. Multivariate analysis indicated that permanence, depth, flow and



Number of freshwater plant and animal species in freshwater habitats in Coleshill landscape

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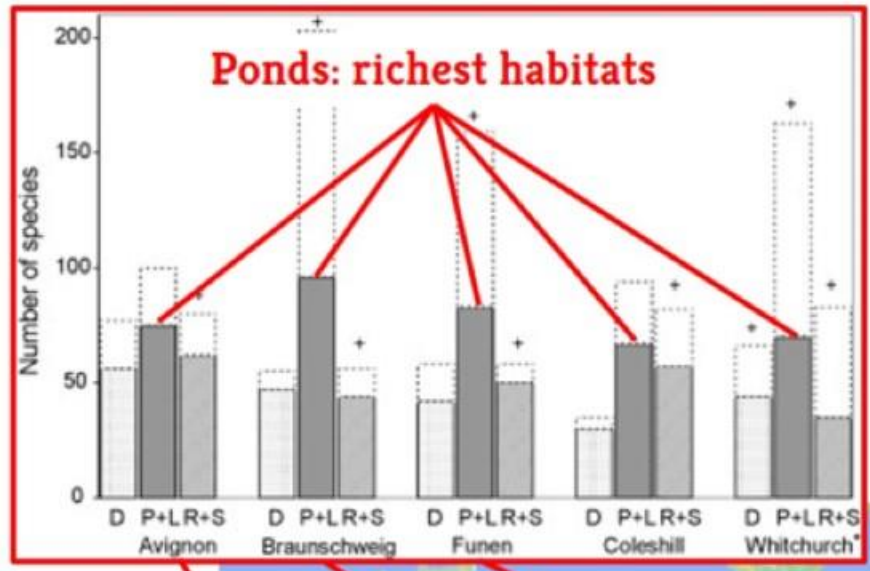
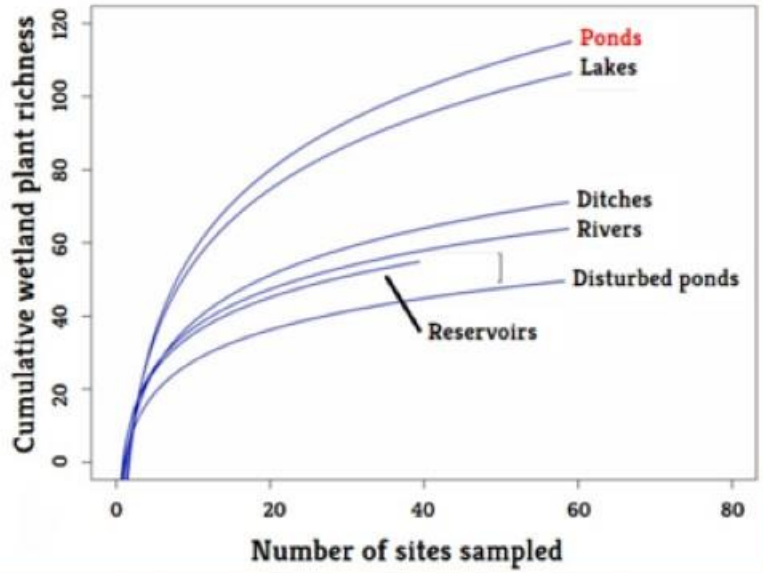
PONDS FOR CLIMATE

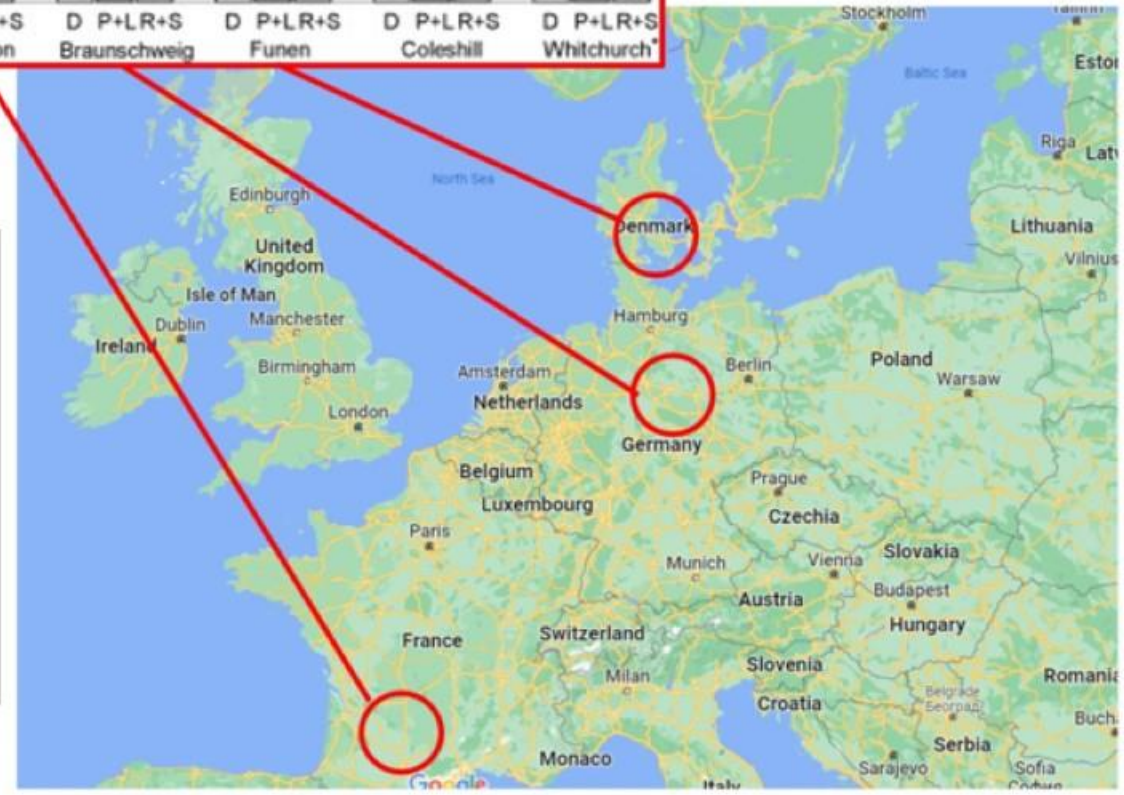
Regional wetland plant richness

- Denmark
- Germany
- France



Regional wetland plant richness Southern China





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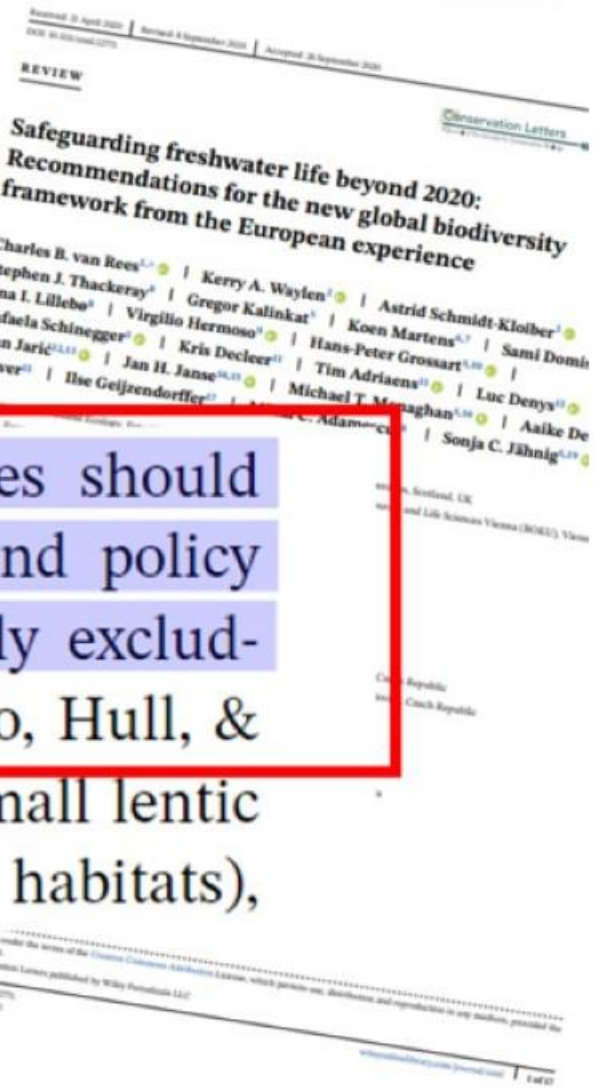
- **Unknowingly, systematic bias against small waters has built up**
- **van Rees et al (2021) noted that:**



REVIEW

Conservation Letters

Safeguarding freshwater life beyond 2020: Recommendations for the new global biodiversity framework from the European experience

Charles B. van Rees | Kerry A. Waylen | Astrid Schmidt-Kloiber | Stephen J. Thackeray | Gregor Kalinkat | Koen Martens | Sami Domi | Ana I. Lillebø | Virgilio Hermoso | Hans-Peter Grossart | Rafaela Schinegger | Kris Decleer | Tim Adriaens | Luc Denys | Ivan Jarić | Jan H. Janse | Michael T. Monaghan | Aaike De | Wever | Ilse Geijzendorffer | Sonja C. Jähnig

Within the freshwater realm, new strategies should address the bias in research, management, and policy principally focused on rivers and lakes, largely excluding other freshwater habitats (Oertli, Céréghino, Hull, & Miracle, 2009; Williams et al., 2004). Ponds (small lentic waterbodies), springs (crenic or groundwater habitats),

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Practical example of problem:

EU Water Framework Directive

- Protects all freshwaters in theory
- BUT has specific clauses which in practice exclude all waterbodies less than 50 ha: ie all ponds, many small lakes
- Urgent need to include policies to protect small waters

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Key aims of PONDERFUL

Bring together, collate and build current knowledge about ponds – to inform better policy making.

Focused on the NbS for the future provided by ponds:

- Freshwater biodiversity – where critical
- Potential for climate regulation: direct impacts on carbon cycle, evidence of exceptional ability to store carbon; but when polluted, potentially globally significant source of climate heating gases

Also...

- Regulating water flows
- Regulating water quality
- Providing resources, both food and materials, and supporting pollinators
- Contributing to human health and welfare: learning, inspiration and the physical and psychological experiences to be gained from ponds

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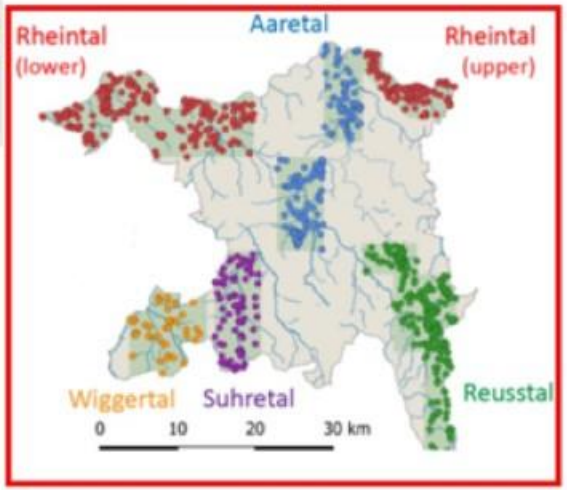
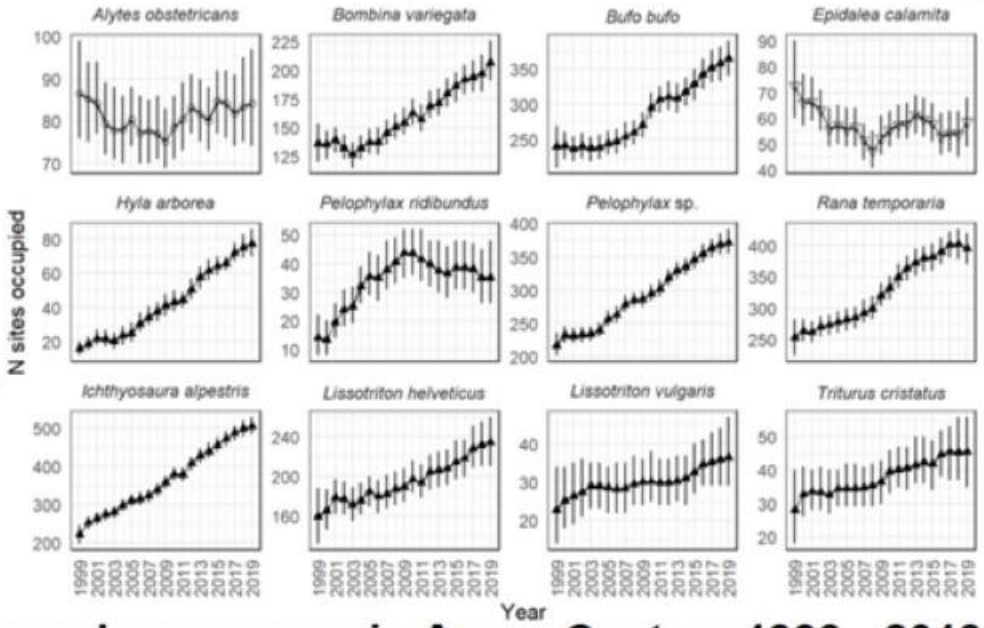
Swiss large-scale pond creation:

- After decades of amphibian population declines, occupied ponds increased statewide for 10 out of 12 species, while one species remained stable and one species further declined between 1999 and 2019.
- Simple but massive conservation action leads to landscape-scale recovery of amphibians

Moor, H., Bergamini, A., Vorburger, C., Holderegger, R., Bühler, C., Egger, S. and Schmidt, B.R., 2022. Bending the curve: Simple but massive conservation action leads to landscape-scale recovery of amphibians. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119, p.e2123070119.





Amphibian pond occupancy in Argau Canton, 1999 - 2019

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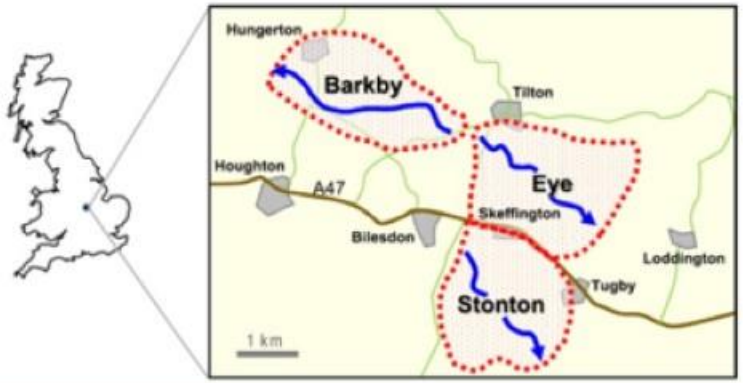
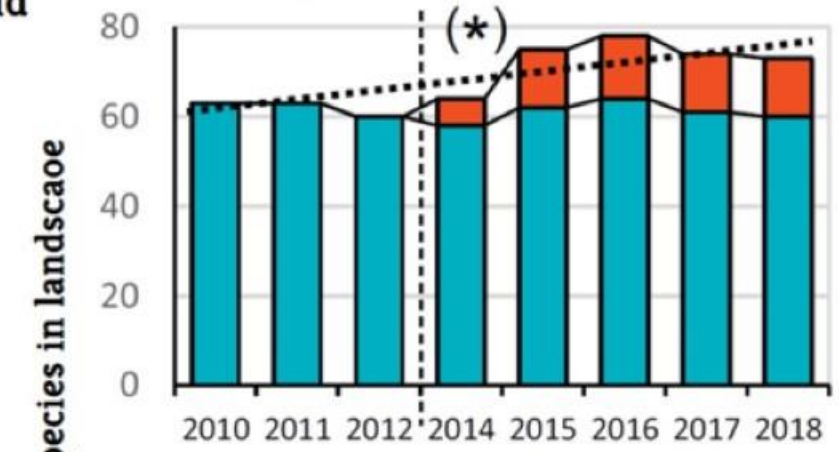
- PONDERFUL demonstration site in UK
- Added new clean water ponds to typical lowland intensive agricultural landscape
- Losing 1% of wetland plant species from landscape, every year
- Led to 25% increase in landscape-wide freshwater plant diversity
- Level of change unprecedented in water management at landscape scale

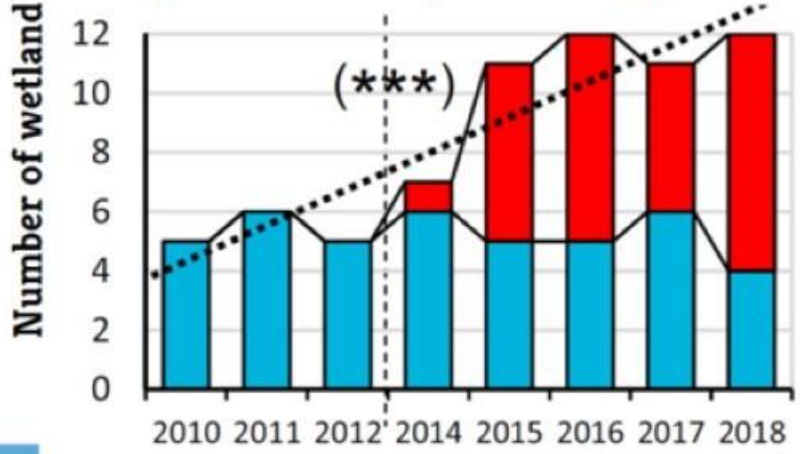
UK PONDERFUL demonstration site



Clean water ponds: effect on wetland plant species richness at landscape level



Clean water ponds: rare plant species recovery at landscape level



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PONDS FOR CLIMATE

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Working with policy makers…

Proposing two urgent developments:

1. **The need to apply WFD to small waters ie by applying System B *which already includes waterbodies less than 0.5 km²***
2. **To apply simple pond policy goals: e.g. massive pond creation programme to double clean water pond numbers (evidence from PONDERFUL)**

Include ponds in Nature Restoration Law, alongside rivers and floodplains, to include most biodiverse and abundant parts of the water environment.

We note that Article 4 of NRL should specifically refer to '…restoration of floodplains, ponds and wetlands….' and Article 7 to 'landscape-wide creation and restoration of ponds'. We also suggest key text (in red) to add to NRL on complementing existing policy: "….the Water Framework Directive by specifying additional restoration requirements for river continuity, ~~and to~~ ensuring good conditions of floodplains and adopting measures to enhance the conservation and management of small waterbodies and wetlands"

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Funded by the European Union

Ponderful

PONDS FOR CLIMATE

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RAMSAR COP14 SIDE EVENT

Unpacking the Potential of Wetlands for Addressing Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss

8 November 2022 | 13.15 - 14.15 CET
CICG & Online

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Welcome

- James DALTON, Head, Water & Land Management, IUCN

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Arnaud TERRISSE

Project Officer, Plan Bleu
Project Partner, WaterLANDS

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COP14 2022

WaterLANDS

Restoration of wetlands and engaging with communities

Arnaud Terrisse, Project Officer
Plan Bleu/Regional Activity Centre UNEP/MAP

@WaterLANDS_EU @WaterLANDS www.waterlands.eu

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101036484 (WaterLANDS). This output reflects the views of the authors and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

What is Plan Bleu?

- A **Regional Activity Centre** attached to the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP – 1976), first-ever UNEP Regional Seas programme
- Created 43 years ago as a **systemic and prospective analysis centre** in the Mediterranean
- Based in Marseille, France
- Hosts MedECC Secretariat – A network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change

OUR MISSIONS

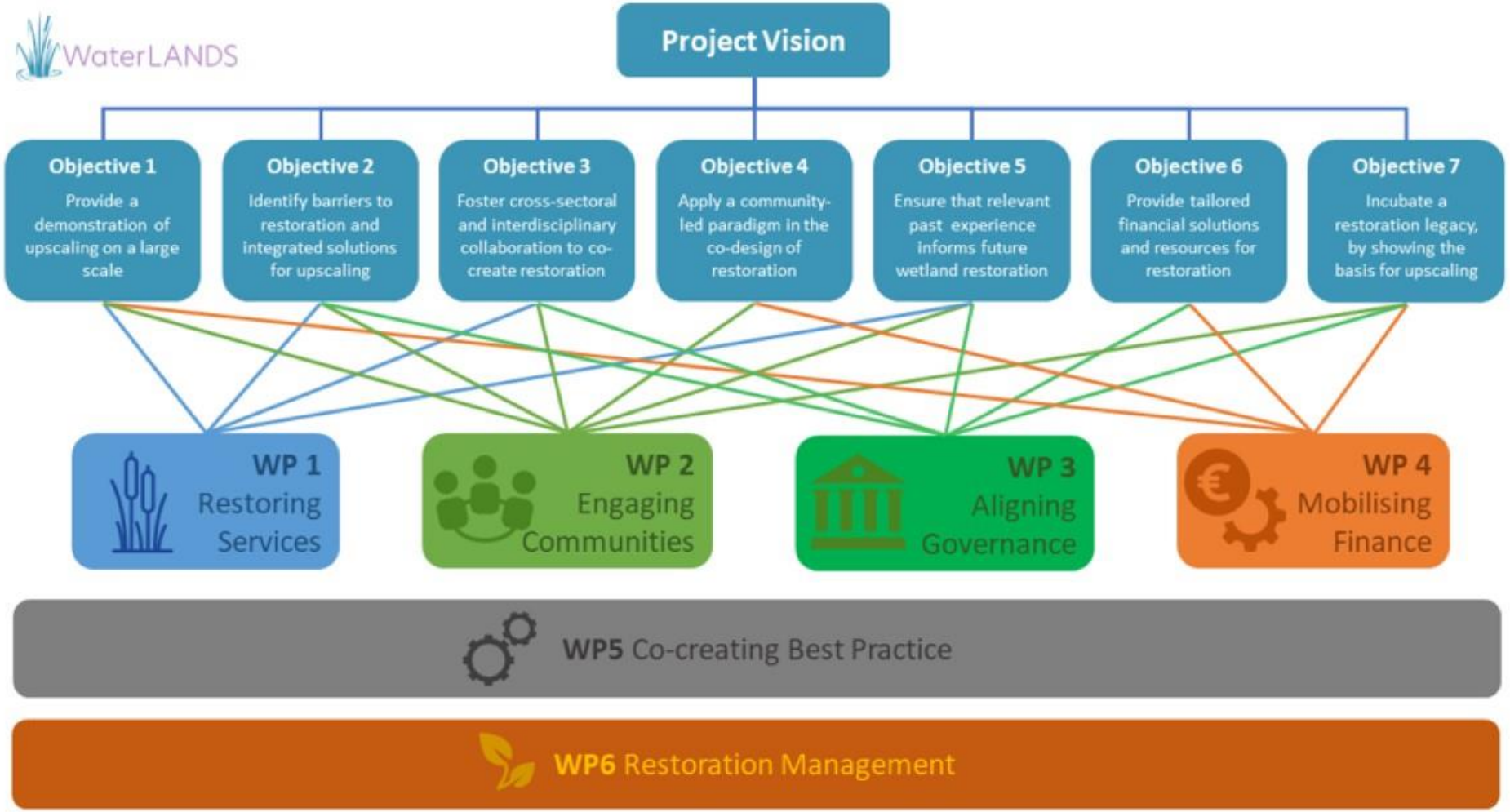
- Observing environment and development to enlighten decision makers
- Shaping possible futures for sustainable development
- Monitoring the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
- Integrating climate change as a priority
- Supporting the transition towards a green and blue economy
- Providing socioeconomic insights for the appropriate management of Mediterranean resources

At a Glance

WaterLANDS

- **Title:** Water-based solutions for carbon storage, people and wilderness
- **Programme:** H2020-LC-GD-2020-3
- **Type of action:** Innovation Action
- **Duration:** Dec. 2021 – Nov. 2026 (60 months)
- **Coordinator:** University College Dublin, Ireland
- **Consortium:** 32 partners from 14 countries
- **Total Budget:** €23,631,574
  - EU Grant: €23,068,483

Project Objectives and WP linkages



Project Network

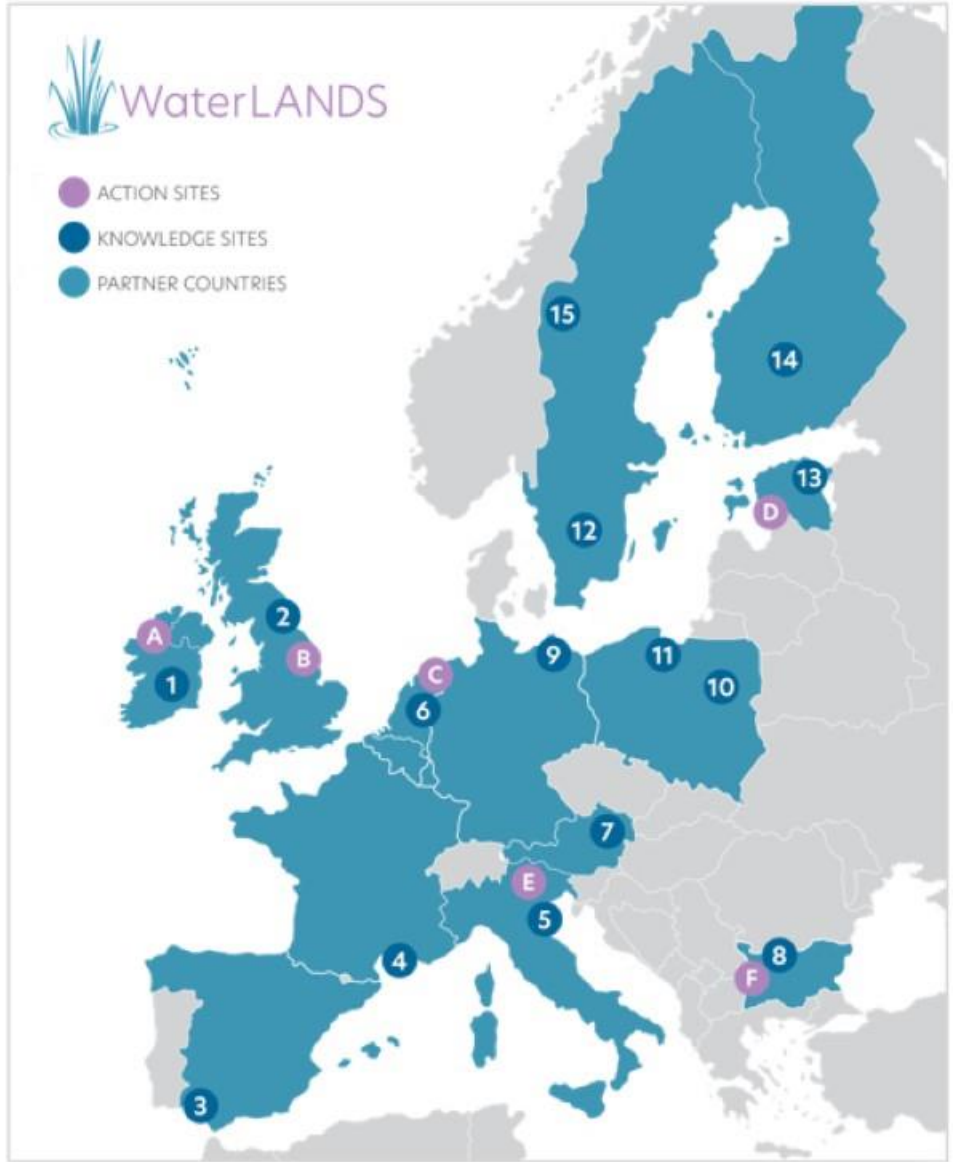
- Building a Legacy across
  - 15 Knowledge Sites
  - 6 Action Sites
  - 14 Partner Countries
- Ramsar sites: good coverage
  - Doñana, SP
  - Venice Lagoon, IT
  - Store Mosse, SW
  - Cuilcagh Mountain, Ireland
  - Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex, Bulgaria

ACTION SITES

- A LIFE-IP Wild Atlantic Nature (Ireland)
- B Yorkshire iCASP (The United Kingdom)
- C Eems-Dollard Estuary (The Netherlands)
- D Pärnu Catchment (Estonia)
- E Venice Lagoon (Italy)
- F Dragoman Marsh (Bulgaria)

KNOWLEDGE SITES

1. Abbeyleix Bog (Ireland)
2. Water@Leeds (The United Kingdom)
3. Doñana Wetland (Spain)
4. Camargue (France)
5. Venice Lagoon (Italy)
6. Engbertsdijksvenen (The Netherlands)
7. Landscape Finance Lab (Austria)
8. Belene Island (Bulgaria)
9. M. Succow Foundation (Germany)
10. Wetlands around Warsaw (Poland)
11. Mazury Forest Mire (Poland)
12. Store Mosse (Sweden)
13. Sirtsi and Tudusoo Mires (Estonia)
14. Siikaneva (Finland)
15. Jämtland Mountains (Sweden)



Wetlands Restoration through Nature-based Solutions

WaterLANDS

- Abbeyleix Bog: Community-led restoration project in Ireland (Knowledge Site) circa 200ha
  - Blocking drains and keeping the water in the landscape
  - Science and evidence-based approaches: three ecotope surveys carried out to reveal condition of the site.

- Former saltworks in Camargue, France (Knowledge Site) circa 6500ha
  - Hydrological works to improve gravitational water flows
  - Restored Mediterranean water cycle
  - Sea dyke was abandoned and breached so the natural connection between the sea and the marshes was reestablished.

Engaging communities in co-design and co-creation

WaterLANDS

- Large-scale wetland restoration initiatives or "living labs"
- Connectivity with communities
- Sharing ecological, community, governance and financial expertise

WaterLANDs contribution to the EU Nature Restoration Law

WaterLANDS

- The project will produce guidelines on upscaling wetlands restoration that will inform and support the EU Nature Restoration Law implementation

- Support decision makers in strengthening wetlands target and ambition to lead to a transformation pathway of net zero emissions from wetlands

- Show that NbS cumulative benefits (recreation, biodiversity) exceed the benefits of engineered solutions

WaterLANDS

Thank you!

Project Coordinator:
Craig Bullock *craig.bullock@ucd.ie*
Deputy Project Coordinator:
Shane Mc Guinness
shane.mcguinness@ucd.ie

@WaterLANDS_EU @WaterLANDS www.waterlands.eu

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Alessio SATTA

MedWet REST-COAST

Coordinator, MedWet
Project Partner, REST-COAST

RAMSAR COP14 SIDE EVENT

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REST-COAST

Laboratori d'Enginyeria Marítima
UPC - BARCELONATECH

European Green Deal

Coastal restoration for estuaries and deltas

A question of connectivity and scale

Prof. A. Sanchez-Arcilla (Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya)

Dr. A. Satta (MedWet)

Project funded by EU Horizon 2020 Research & Innovation action under grant No 101037097.

REST-COAST in a nutshell

- 38 partners coordinated by the Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya of
- 12 countries
- 18.4 million euros of budget
- 4 years of implementation

9 Pilots + worldwide coasts
...the Ebro Delta and other locations in the Mediterranean, the Baltic, the Black Sea and the North Sea

Fig. Ebro Delta

REST-COAST

REST-COAST : the ambition

- Based on nature-based actions and solutions, the expected results of the project will translate into technological advances and will influence funding and policies related to **large-scale coastal restoration projects**. Through blocks of natural solutions, **connectivity will be increased in the continuum river-delta-estuary-coast-sea**.
- REST-COAST aims to be an example of the type of applied research and innovation we need to face the climate emergency through large-scale restoration of coastal ecosystems in order to both adapt and mitigate.

REST-COAST: expected results

1) Scalable **adaptation-through-restoration** plans (**NBS** blocks)
   → **Connectivity** + natural **dynamics** (Darnaude et al 2022)

2) Coastal ESS for **risk reduction** and **BioDiv** gains
   → **Decarbonised** coastal protection & **blue C** mitigation

3) Replicable **upscaling** drive (S-Arcilla et al, 2022)
→ **Systemic** restoration on **river-delta/estuary-coast** continuum

Venice lagoon/Po delta (Med Sea)
Seagrass transplantation/Sed. re-use

Vistula Lagoon (Baltic Sea)
New island BDV & ESS/Dredging

4) **Enablers** for upscaling coastal restoration
→ ***COASTAL-RESTORATION-PLATFORMS*** for engagement beyond REST-COAST

5) **Integrate** biophysical and socioeconomic **expertise**
→ **Transition** from local/regional **Pilots** to **worldwide** coasts

Worldwide assessment of wetland ESS (erosion/flooding risks)

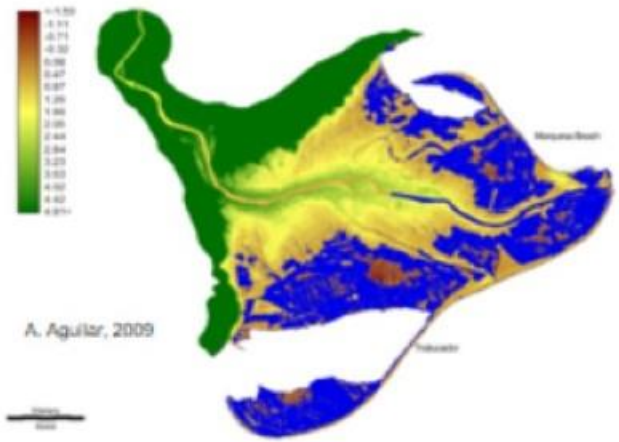
Coastal systems in
Baltic, Black, Med & North Seas

Transfer via **Cooperation Board**
+ International Partners +
N Africa, S America & S Asia

REST-COAST: expected results

Roadmap for **governance** and **policy transformation**

- **Action plan** for adaptation-through-restoration at each Pilot
- **Transformative governance** recommendations
- Pilot demos + **restoration contracts** (CO-RE-PLATS)



Ebre delta (W Med)
River dam bypass & controlled floods
Buffer/filter (room for coast)

Worldwide coasts (Coop. Board)
Risk reduction via wetland restoration
ESS into coastal adaptation & CZM

REST-COAST

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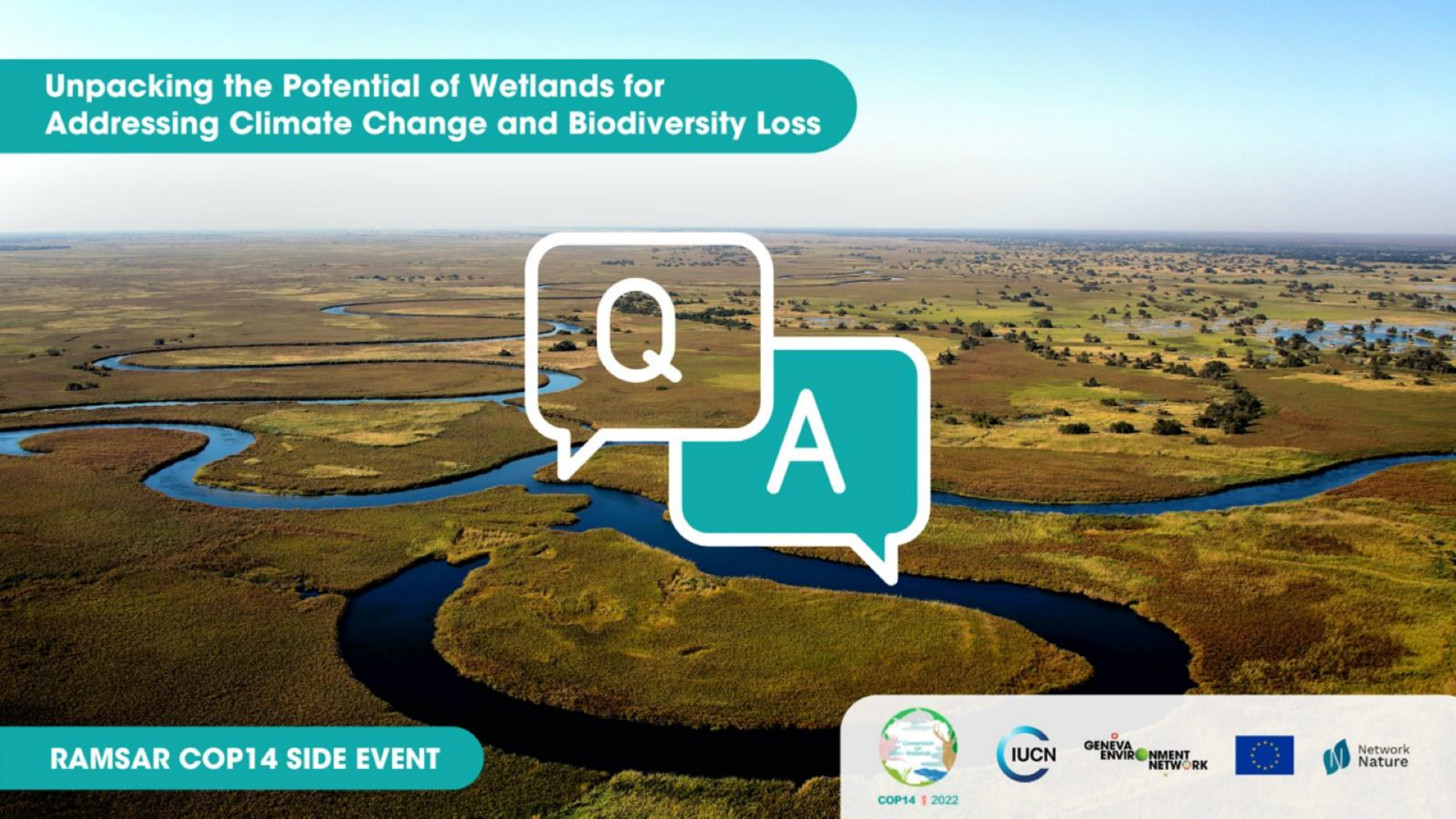

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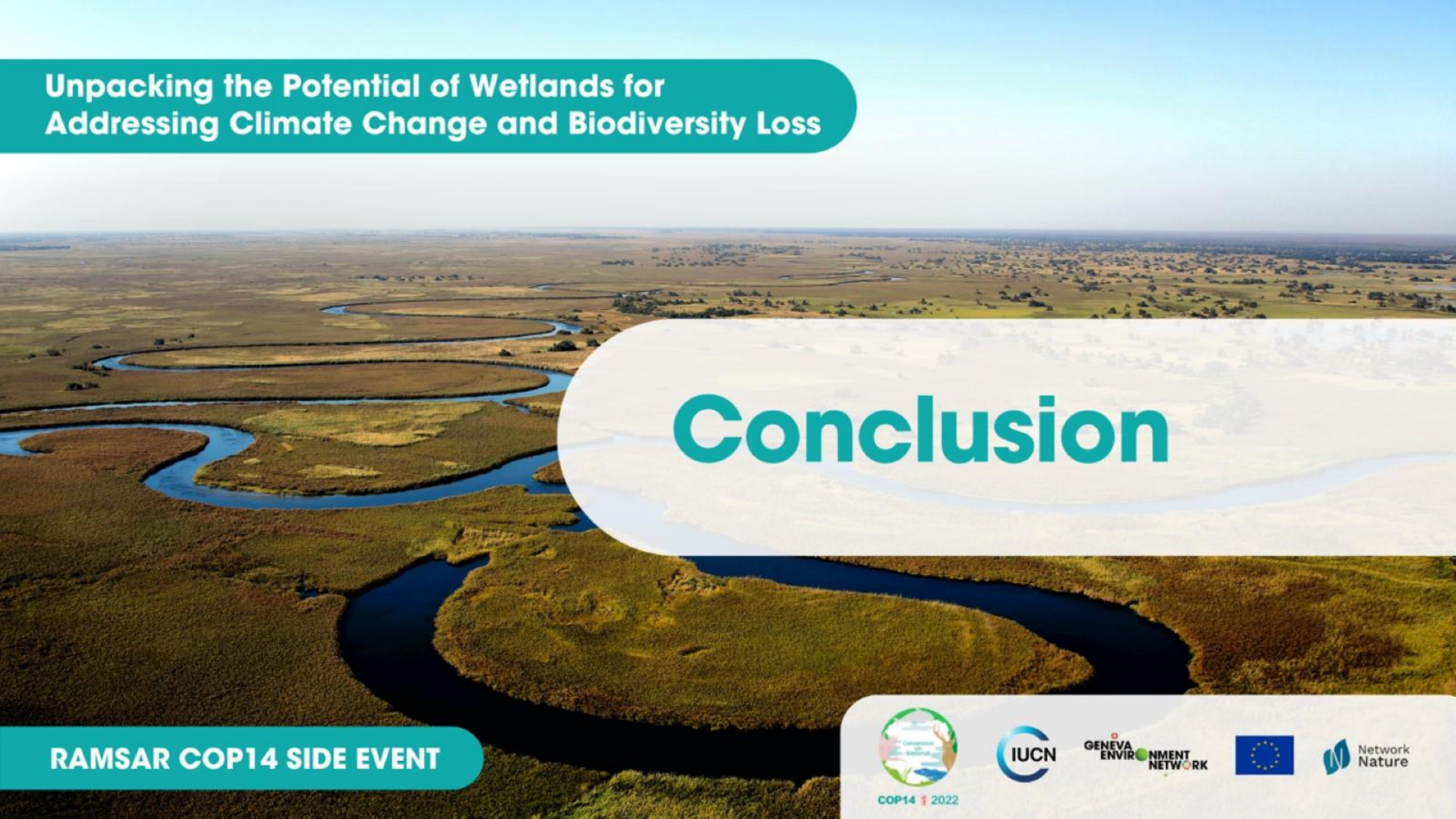

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THANK YOU FOR JOINING!

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Jeremy BIGGS

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Alessio SATTA

Coordinator, MedWet | Project Partner, REST-COAST

James DALTON

Head, Water & Land Management, IUCN | Moderator

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WHAT'S NEXT?

genevaenvironmentnetwork.org

CONFERENCE

Challenges on the economic, social, cultural, and environmental situation in the Philippines | UPR41

09 NOV 2022 13:30 - 15:00

Palais des Nations | Room XXII & Online

Earthjustice, PUPR Watch, Kalikasan, Amnesty International, ESCR-Net, Viva Salud, Ibon Foundation, CHD, CPRH, NCCP, IPMSDL

◉ Human Rights and Environment

VIRTUAL

Strengthening Multilateralism through Science | From Science to Zero Pollution Actions

30 NOV 2022 10:00 - 11:30

Online | Webex

UNEP, Czech Republic

◉ Science

○ SDG17

VIRTUAL

Geneva Executive Briefing on the United Nations Biodiversity Conference

30 NOV 2022 14:00 - 15:30

Online | Webex

◉ Nature

○ SDG14 | SDG15

CONFERENCE

Standards and the Triple Planetary Crisis

01 DEC 2022 13:30 - 15:00

International Environment House II & Online

ISO, GEN

◉ Climate | Nature | Chemicals and Pollution | Green Economy

○ SDG12 | SDG13 | SDG14 | SDG15 | SDG17

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